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Loose rail stalled SkyTrain: Official

FLEET MAINTENANCE

Chances of accident were 'million to one'

Matt Kieltyka
Metro | Vancouver

The man responsible for maintaining SkyTrain's fleet says the freak accident that brought the system to a halt for eight hours Tuesday was a "million to one shot."

Richard Sykes, vice president of maintenance at B.C. Rapid Transit Company, told media Wednesday that the service disruption was caused by a loose piece of rail that "bounced" too close to the guideway and was hit by a passing train near Science World at approximately 2:30 p.m.

The collision ripped a power collector shoe out from under the train, which then got wedged under the moving vehicle.

All SkyTrain service from Waterfront Station to Main Street-Science World was stopped ahead of the afternoon rush hour and beyond as crews scrambled to find the problem, call in heavy equipment to lift the train off the rails, dislodge the damaged shoe and clear the tracks so that SkyTrains could safely run again.

The loose piece of rail had been left there the day before as part of an ongoing rail replacement project and had gradually vibrated and bounced closer to the live track until it was struck by a train.

Sykes insisted leaving rail on wooden blocks near guideways is common practice.

"I've been in the railway industry for 20 years, plus," he said. "It's standard practice to lay rail out in the guideway while replacing it."

> **"(The disruption) was caused by an incident that was unprecedented.**
> Richard Sykes

The SkyTrain system has been beset by a number of unprecedented incidents recently that has negatively impacted commuters' trust in the aging fleet.

Sykes, who issued an apology to commuters, bemoaned the nature of recent disruptions.

"What are the chances of a collector shoe becoming detached from a vehicle in that way, and then get wedged where we can't physically remove it (on Tuesday?) ... 30 years of operation, it's never happened previously."

SAFEST CYCLING CITY

Vancouver tops major Canadian hubs in bike sense
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JENNIFER GAUTHIER/METRO

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PM Trudeau has a sit-down with the Queen. **Canada**

Plan 'a form of discrimination'

LGBTQ ISSUES

Gay Syrian talks of his concerns about Canada's refugee strategy

Thandi Fletcher
Metro | Vancouver

A gay Syrian refugee living in Vancouver says he is concerned that Canada's plan to prioritize refugee status for single men only if they identify as gay, bisexual or transgender could cause more problems for an already vulnerable group.

"If I was a refugee in a camp at the moment and I went out and went to the Canadian embassy and applied for refugee status, that's basically outing myself to the whole refugee camp," said Danny Ramadan. "(That would) be putting myself in extreme danger."

The Liberal government revealed Tuesday its promise to resettle 25,000 Syrian refugees by the end of February, giving priority to complete families, women at risk, members of sexual minorities — and single men only if they are identified as gay, bisexual or transgender or are travelling as part of a family.

While he is glad to see Canada welcome gay Syrians as refugees, Danny Ramadan said he worries that the requirement could put many in the LGBTQ community at risk of discrimination or even violence.

Vancouver resident Danny Ramadan fears Canada's proposal to prioritize refugee status for gay men could put them at **risk of discrimination or even violence.** COURTESY QMUNITY

Born and raised in Syria, Ramadan arrived in Canada with his partner Aamar as privately sponsored refugees last September.

Ramadan first left Syria at the age of 18 "because of family pressure" after he told them he is gay, he said. In 2011, he returned to the country but described his life there as "extremely difficult."

Although he wanted to live as a "proud, out-of-the-closet gay man," Ramadan said he could not do so without putting his life at risk.

> **"I felt like I was living on the outskirts of the society.**
> Danny Ramadan

"I felt like I was living on the outskirts of the society," he said. "I could never be my true self."

Homosexuality is not only widely rejected in Syria but is illegal and punishable by three years in prison, he said.

"That's a death sentence in itself," he said. "I can't imagine spending three years in prison while everyone knows I'm homosexual, surrounded by criminals and pedophiles and killers."

Ramadan said he was forced to flee Syria following a close call with police after he converted his one-bedroom apartment into a "makeshift underground centre" that provided housing and support for members of the LGBTQ community.

"I managed to escape arrest," he said. "But I had to leave the country overnight because of it."

Now living in Vancouver, Ramadan works for Qmunity, B.C.'s queer resource centre, and has started to build a life in Canada with his partner.

While he believes Ottawa is on the right track with its refugee plan, Ramadan said he hopes the federal government will eventually open the door to more Syrians.

He said there are many single heterosexual men who escaped the country, either because their families died, they did not want to be recruited to join the Syrian army or they feared being forced by ISIL to become terrorists.

He said he believes anyone from Syria who wants to seek refuge should be allowed in.

"My partner left the country because there is a possibility that they would have called him back to the army," he said. "Not including straight men is basically a form of discrimination based on sexual orientation."

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Vancouver safest major city in Canada for cycling

TRANSPORTATION

Report ranks Montreal, Toronto at bottom

Emily Jackson
Metro | Vancouver

Vancouver cyclists, drivers and pedestrians alike may tell horror stories about near crashes on city streets, but a new report suggests Vancouver is the safest of five major cities to cycle in Canada.

There is less than one crash reported for every 100,000 cycling trips in Vancouver compared to seven in Montreal and five in Toronto, the most dangerous cities to travel on two wheels, according to a report released by the Pembina Institute on Thursday.

Calgary and Ottawa were in the middle of the pack with four and three crashes per 100,000 trips respectively. The data likely underestimates accidents since many smaller crashes such as doorings go unreported.

"It shows there can be safety in numbers," Pembina senior advisor and report co-author Nithya Vijayakumar said, pointing to the high volume of cyclists in a relatively small area.

Cyclists on the Adanac Street bike path at Main Street in Vancouver. JENNIFER GAUTHIER/METRO FILE

106,500

The average number of cycling trips taking place every day in Vancouver, the highest in Canada according to the Pembina Institute report. METRO

At 106,500, Vancouver had the highest number of daily cycling trips — Toronto was runner up with 96,084 trips and Calgary last with 19,476. Vancouver also boasts the densest cycling network with most cycling infrastructure in the downtown core.

> **It shows there can be safety in numbers.**
> Nithya Vijayakumar, Pembina Institute

Vijayakumar cautioned that direct comparisons between the cities are flawed because of Vancouver's small size. It would have been more accurate to study all of Metro Vancouver in order for the study area to be comparable to the other cities, but she said data wasn't readily available for municipalities including Burnaby and Richmond.

Nevertheless, the report showcases how different cities are investing in bike infrastructure and where their strengths lie. Vancouver has done a great job of signage and neighbourhood bike routes, Montreal has the most on-street bike lanes and Calgary has far and away the largest off-street, recreational cycling network.

"It's not a one-size-fits all approach," she said.

She hopes planners will read the report to discover ideas that work in other cities with the recognition that there's a growing momentum around cycling.

"Every city is recognizing the appetite for cycling infrastructure," she said.

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IN BRIEF

Taxi industry asks for additional flexible licenses

Just because the local taxi industry doesn't want Uber to set foot in Vancouver doesn't mean it doesn't recognize there aren't enough taxis to meet demand.

The Vancouver Taxi Association announced Wednesday it will apply to the Passenger Transportation Board for 200 additional flexible taxi licences to meet increased demand in unexpected situations such as Tuesday's SkyTrain outage.

The association wants these extra taxis to hit the streets by December, when there is typically increased demand from holiday parties. It will also re-apply for more accessible taxis to serve users with disabilities.

It's not clear exactly how flexible licences would operate as the association did not return Metro's interview request, but if the drivers only show up in times of high demand it seems strikingly similar to Uber's business model.

EMILY JACKSON/METRO

This cow led police on a dangerous chase through traffic before it was shot and killed Sunday. TWITTER/@BUCKY19

ABBOTSFORD

Cow shot 24 times

Matt Kieltyka
Metro | Vancouver

A runaway cow recklessly running into highway traffic had to be shot and killed on Sunday, Abbotsford police say.

The bizarre incident has also sparked a mandatory use of force review into one of its officers, who fired at the animal 24 times.

Const. Paul Walker said officers were first called to the area near Whatcom and South Parallel Road at 10:15 a.m. after a cow was reported running out into traffic towards Highway 1.

"Cars are driving 110 kilometres per hour through there, so it could be catastrophic," Walker said. "People were swerving to avoid it. People were slamming on the brakes."

Luckily, the cow managed to cross the highway without causing a collision or injury to drivers.

Police followed the frightened animal to the parking lot of a small business, where they tried unsuccessfully to corner it.

Meanwhile, Walker said dispatchers were trying to contact any organization or individuals that could assist capturing the frightened animal and bring it under control.

About 30 minutes into the incident, the cow began running into busy traffic again and police made the decision to put it down.

It took an officer armed with a patrol rifle 24 shots to kill the cow, Walker confirmed.

Walker said these kind of incidents are rare, but police in Abbotsford do sometimes have to deal with animals that have escaped their farms.

That the vast majority of those calls happen in rural areas and are resolved without having to kill the animal.

An investigation into the officers' use of force has been launched, as it is any time a police officer discharges a firearm.

The cow's owner was located and has been contact with police, Walker said.

The department has also been updating its list of possible organizations and people to call the next time a loose animal needs to be brought under control.

Vulnerable find a place to keep pace

DIGITAL DIVIDE

Drop-in centre offers patrons the chance to get connected

Emily Jackson
Metro | Vancouver

Patrons at a downtown Vancouver drop-in centre are giving the city a double thumbs-up for providing free Wi-Fi access in a safe, warm environment where they can also charge their phones.

Free internet is now available at the Gathering Place Community Centre, a space for vulnerable people, many of them middle-aged men, to get a meal, a shower or do laundry.

"It's a big deal," centre manager Jo-Ann Stevens said. "Connectivity is not a luxury."

During Wednesday's lunch break, many visitors were hunkered over their screens near plug-ins, charging their phones while surfing the web. It's been like that since the signal turned on Monday as part of the city's initiative with Telus to provide Internet at more than 40 public facilities, Stevens said.

Internet connection is crucial for a range of activities including signing up for social housing, finding a job or applying for welfare, she noted. It helps address the digital divide between people who can and can't afford home Internet, pricey mobile plans or even a coffee to get free Wi-Fi at a coffee shop.

> **Free access levels the playing field.**
> Jo-Ann Stevens, Gathering Place manager

"Free access levels the playing field," Stevens said, especially considering everyone spends so much time staring at screens these days.

There's a perception that vulnerable populations don't have Internet-equipped phones, but Stevens said that's not necessarily the case since older models are cheap or given away for free. Many youths who need social supports may come from homes where they already had smartphones.

The Gathering Place is thrilled it's one of the first places to get free Wi-Fi, as it shows the city is serious about its promise to make the Internet available to vulnerable populations. (The Carnegie Community Centre in the Downtown Eastside is also on the list.)

Eventually, the organizations hope to use social media to communicate information such as where shelter beds are available.

Several hundred people visit the Gathering Place daily. It serves about 400 low-cost meals a day, offers an adult learning centre through the Vancouver School Board and runs a variety of arts and fitness programs. About 250 people, many who first got involved as visitors, participate in the centre's extensive volunteer program.

Today, "connectivity is not a luxury," says Gathering Place's Jo-Ann Stevens. METRO/EMILY JACKSON

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WHISTLER

Hope up on low loonie

Matt Kieltyka
Metro | Vancouver

Businesses in Whistler hope a record-setting summer rolls seamlessly into a winter bonanza, off the back of a low Canadian dollar.

Val Litwin, CEO of the Whistler Chamber of Commerce, says some of its members have seen visitation up by as much as 25 points, year-over-year, during the resort town's summer season.

That increase can be somewhat attributed to the current value of the Canadian dollar — worth 75 cents of its U.S. counterpart as of Wednesday — that makes a resort like Whistler a tempting proposition for American tourists.

"There's a direct correlation with the exchange rate," said Litwin. "Their dollar just goes so much further here now."

Another initiative paying dividends is the chamber's partnership with the University of Victoria's Gustavson School of Business.

Together, Litwin said, they've created a cutting-edge customer service training course for local businesses, branded The Whistler Experience.

The program is in its second year and has already trained 5,600 employees, representing roughly half of the resort's businesses.

"We have one year under our belt and people are already saying they see a higher level of organizational excellence," Litwin said.

Litwin said the program aims to take a visitor's satisfaction level from an acceptable "six or seven" to the eight or higher required for them to not just return, but encourage others to do the same.

Vancouver Coastal Health is placing decals in the washrooms of the city's bars and nightclubs in the coming weeks of drugs arranged in deathly symbols, such as a flatlining heart rate, to raise awareness of the dangers of fentanyl. RETHINK

Decals warn about dangers of fentanyl

CAMPAIGN

Images coming to washrooms target casual drug users

Thandi Fletcher
Metro | Vancouver

Drug users in Vancouver will soon be hit with a sobering warning about the dangers of fentanyl when they visit local bars and nightclubs.

Vancouver Coastal Health is placing decals in the bathrooms of bars and nightclubs throughout the city that contain eerily life-like images of drugs arranged in foreboding symbols, such as a skull, a cross and a flatlining heart rate.

The decals, designed by Vancouver-based creative agency Rethink, read: "Anything can be cut with fentanyl," as a reminder for partiers that street drugs are unregulated and to be careful about what they ingest.

"It's definitely eye-catching," said Dr. Mark Lysyshyn, medical health officer for Vancouver Coastal Health. "It grabs people in a way that a poster can't. I think when they see these in an environment when they may actually be taking drugs, it could help get the message to them at a time when it counts."

> **A lot of people are bored with health posters.**
> Dr. Mark Lysyshyn

Fentanyl is "extremely potent" and even a small amount can cause an overdose, he said.

Lysyshyn said the decals target recreational drug users, who may be unaware of the dangers of fentanyl.

"Most of the people who are taking fentanyl are not aware that they are taking it," he said. "They think they're taking a different drug, most often heroin or OxyContin."

Unlike heavy drug users, Lysyshyn said, health officials have a difficult time reaching casual users because they don't visit places such as Insite.

At Vancouver's safe injection facility, users are educated about B.C.'s Take Home Naloxone program, which has reversed more than 220 opioid drug overdoses since it launched in 2012.

"Nobody dies of fentanyl overdose at Insite," said Lysyshyn. "We have interventions that can protect those types of drug users, but we don't have similar interventions for non-habitual drug users."

LEGAL

Teenage refugee sues B.C.

A teenage refugee from South Sudan is suing the B.C. government alleging the Children's Ministry is responsible for him enduring solitary confinement for four months.

The youth, known in court documents as K.C., filed a civil claim in B.C. Supreme Court this week alleging his rights were infringed during imprisonment at the Burnaby Youth Detention Centre.

His lawyer, Chris Terepocki, said K.C. is suing for a "substantial amount" with the aim of deterring the ministry from permitting such actions in the future.

Terepocki said K.C.'s "unacceptable" punishment was meted out after the young man assaulted a staff worker.

The court documents say the ministry moved him to a separate confinement unit for the maximum allowable period of 72 hours after an altercation with a correctional officer.

When the time expired, staff cleared out a unit, took away all extraneous furniture and placed K.C. back inside by himself, say the documents. Correctional staff were advised "no one was to have one-on-one contact" with the young man.

None of the allegations have been tested in court.

Ministry spokesman Bill Anderson would not comment while the case is before the court, but said separate confinement arrangements are made on rare occasions to ensure the safety of other youth and staff.

K.C. was living in New Westminster, B.C., but the documents say he has been imprisoned since October 2014 on allegations of murder and attempted murder. He alleges he was confined between Nov. 4, 2014 and March 17, when he was 17. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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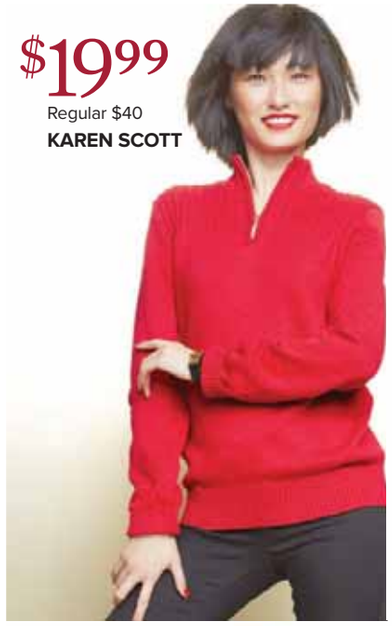

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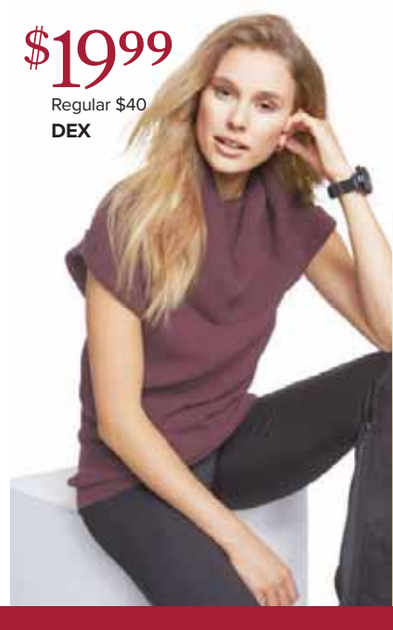

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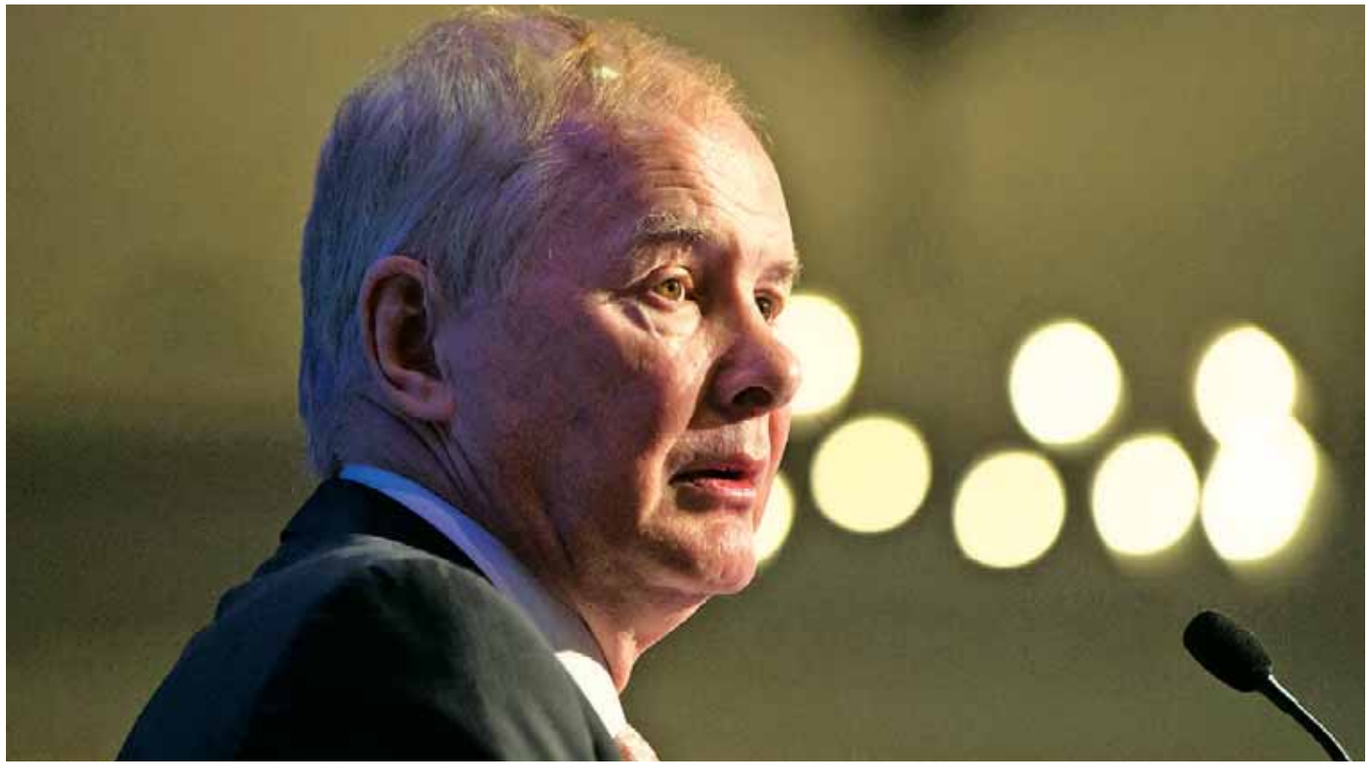
John Furlong comes up for air

PUBLIC ADDRESS

Former CEO of Vancouver Olympics talks of allegations



John Furlong, Own The Podium board chairman and former CEO of the Vancouver Olympics, addresses a board of trade luncheon. DARRYL DYCK/THE CANADIAN PRESS

John Furlong felt accused of letting Canada down when a newspaper published allegations that he abused First Nations children, the former Vancouver Olympics boss said in his first major speech in three years.

The man who steered the 2010 Winter Games was introduced by Vancouver Canucks president of hockey operations Trevor Linden and welcomed with standing ovations at a Vancouver Board of Trade event on Wednesday.

"I don't mind telling you I am pretty nervous," he said as he took the stage. "For a long time I thought I would never have the chance to do this again."

Furlong said his world came "crashing down" in September 2012 when an article ran in the Georgia Straight newspaper that included allegations that he beat and taunted students at a northern B.C. school more than 40 years ago.

"I know I had thousands of friends, definitely hundreds of friends, here and around the world, and it just seemed like almost immediately most of them went away," he said.

"I think most people just didn't know what to think or say ... It was a very lonely and difficult time."

Journalist Laura Robinson obtained eight sworn affidavits from people who said Furlong physically abused them while he was a gym teacher in Burns Lake in 1969 and 1970, a chapter of his life that had been omitted from his memoir Patriot Hearts.

Robinson filed a defamation suit over public comments Furlong made after the article's publication, and last month a B.C. Supreme Court judge ruled he had a right to defend himself from her "attacks" on his character and credibility.

While the judge found numerous errors in Robinson's reporting, the allegations in her article have not been tested in court because Furlong dropped his own defamation suit this year.

Furlong told a packed room of about 500 business leaders that as an Irish immigrant, he always wanted to prove he was worthy of being Canadian.

"So when the sky fell for me and for our family, I felt in a way I was being accused of letting the country down," he said.

Speaking in front of his daughter and brother, he said the allegations took a grave toll on his family. After he and his wife Deborah retreated to Ireland, she was killed in a car crash.

But he always remembered advice from his father: "When people are saying horrible, horrible things about you, and you can see no hope ... The only thing that's standing between you and survival is the answer to one simple question: 'What is true'?"

In a brief interview after the speech, Furlong said despite dropping his own suit, the scathing judgment in Robinson's case said "loud and clear" he was "completely exonerated."

"Observers of what took place in court are of the view that if that's what the judge was willing to write, you can only imagine what she was thinking."

He reiterated his firm denial of ever being too rough with his students.

Asked whether he thought Robinson's sources were lying, he replied, "I'm not going to answer that question."

Furlong said he would have included his time in Burns Lake in Patriot Hearts had he known what would be written about him later.

"It's a massive chasm from not putting it in the book to having to deal with what was said."

After the years-long ordeal, Furlong said he's ready to move on and does not plan to go after Robinson for costs.

"This was more about ... getting to the truth, and people will decide what they think about what she did."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

> **So when the sky fell for me and for our family, I felt in a way I was being accused of letting the country down.**
> John Furlong

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No charges over Seawall shootout

CRIME

Police in clear after lengthy investigation of public firefight

Thandi Fletcher
Metro | Vancouver

British Columbia's Criminal Justice Branch says no police officers will be charged over a dramatic shootout last June outside Science World that resulted in gunshot wounds to the suspect.

After a careful review of the available evidence, a senior Crown prosecutor found no basis to approve criminal charges against any police officers involved in the incident.

The decision comes three months after B.C.'s police watchdog agency, the Independent Investigations Office, forwarded a report to Crown counsel following a year-long investigation that determined an officer may have committed an offence in the June 10, 2014, incident.

The alleged shooter, Gerald Mark Battersby, has pleaded not guilty to attempted murder in the incident, which began with a shocking shooting in broad daylight at a Starbucks on Davie Street in Yaletown.

> **Branch examined the potential for collateral injury.**
> Criminal Justice decision

The incident continued with police chasing the suspect, who fled the area on bicycle, along the False Creek Seawall before exchanging gunfire with him outside Science World.

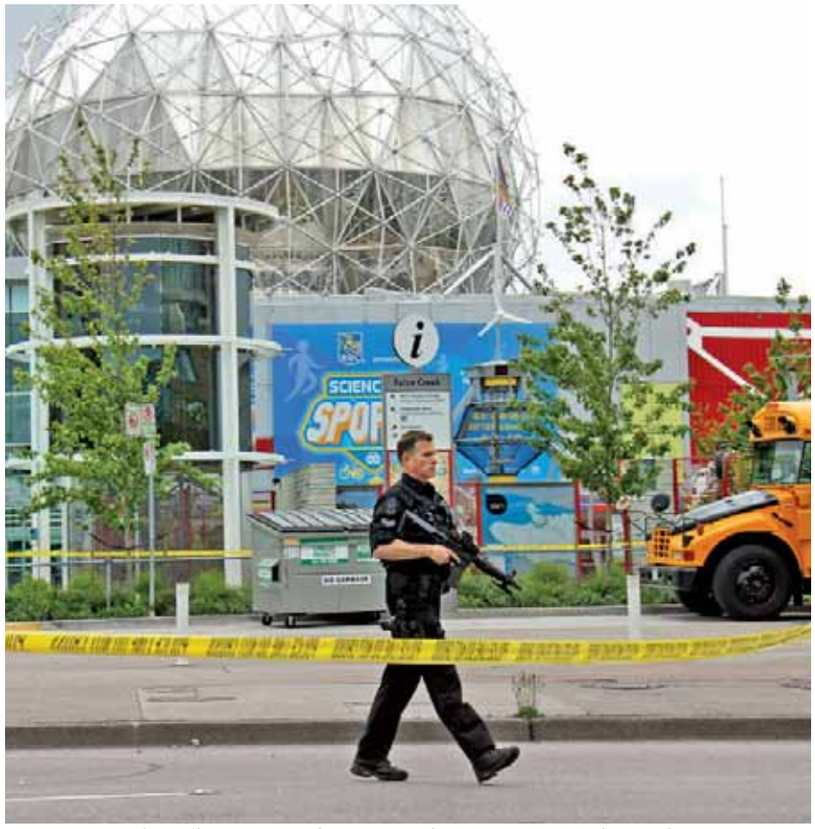
In a decision released Wednesday, the Criminal Justice Branch said that, after a full examination of the evidence, there is nothing to "prove that any of the officers involved … were unjustified in using the force that they did."

The branch said it examined the "potential for collateral injury from gunfire in an urban setting and close proximity" to Science World, and found that it could not prove beyond a reasonable doubt that the "actions of the officers constituted a marked departure from the standard expected of a reasonably prudent officer."

The Crown prosecutor could also not prove beyond a reasonable doubt that "any of the officers failed to take reasonable precautions in discharging their firearms."

As the case is still before the courts, the Criminal Justice Branch said it was limited in the information that could be released to the public in its decision.

However, the branch said it would review whether it is in the public interest to release more details once the legal proceedings have concluded.



A Vancouver police officer carries a firearm outside **Science World** where police were involved in a shootout with an armed suspect on June 10, 2014. EMILY JACKSON/METRO FILE

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Chandelier awaits approval

PUBLIC ART

Council to vote on installation of piece under Granville Bridge

Emily Jackson
Metro | Vancouver

The underbelly of the Granville Bridge is slated for a posh makeover.

Vancouver councillors will vote next week on whether to allow the installation of a spinning chandelier underneath the bridge at Beach Avenue as the public art contribution for the ritzy condo tower under construction next door.

Developer Westbank Corporation will pay for the opulent public art piece designed by Rodney Graham to bring a bit of high-class lighting to the new neighbourhood featuring the Vancouver House, the twisted tower designed by Bjarke Ingels with multi-million-dollar condos at 1480 Howe St.

A rendering of the chandelier Westbank Corporation has proposed to install underneath the Granville Bridge. CITY OF VANCOUVER

The 10- to 15-foot chandelier will revolve slowly and illuminate the street with LED lighting.

Public art is required for large re-zonings, but this particular project needs council's approval since the chandelier encroaches on the city's air space — an unusual request that isn't covered by the existing bylaw. The city's head engineer believes the project will be safe, but Westbank will be liable if anything goes wrong with the light fixture.

The public art committee reviewed and likes the design and recommends council approve it.

The same report recommends council say yes to lighting in the alley behind the Telus Garden as the public art contribution for the downtown office tower that opened this fall. Westbank is the developer on this project as well.

This artwork involves suspending about a dozen cables and hanging lanterns from them in the alley off Robson between Richards and Seymour.

The city believes the lanterns and the chandelier will "enrich the experiences of public spaces."

The report also recommends changing the existing bylaws so staff can approve similar public art in the future without the hassle of going through council.

MORE LOCAL NEWS ONLINE

IN BRIEF

Woman dies after being struck by car

A 68-year-old woman has died after she was struck by a car in Richmond on Saturday.

Around 11:30 a.m., Richmond RCMP responded to reports of a pedestrian struck by a car on No. 3 Road and Granville Avenue.

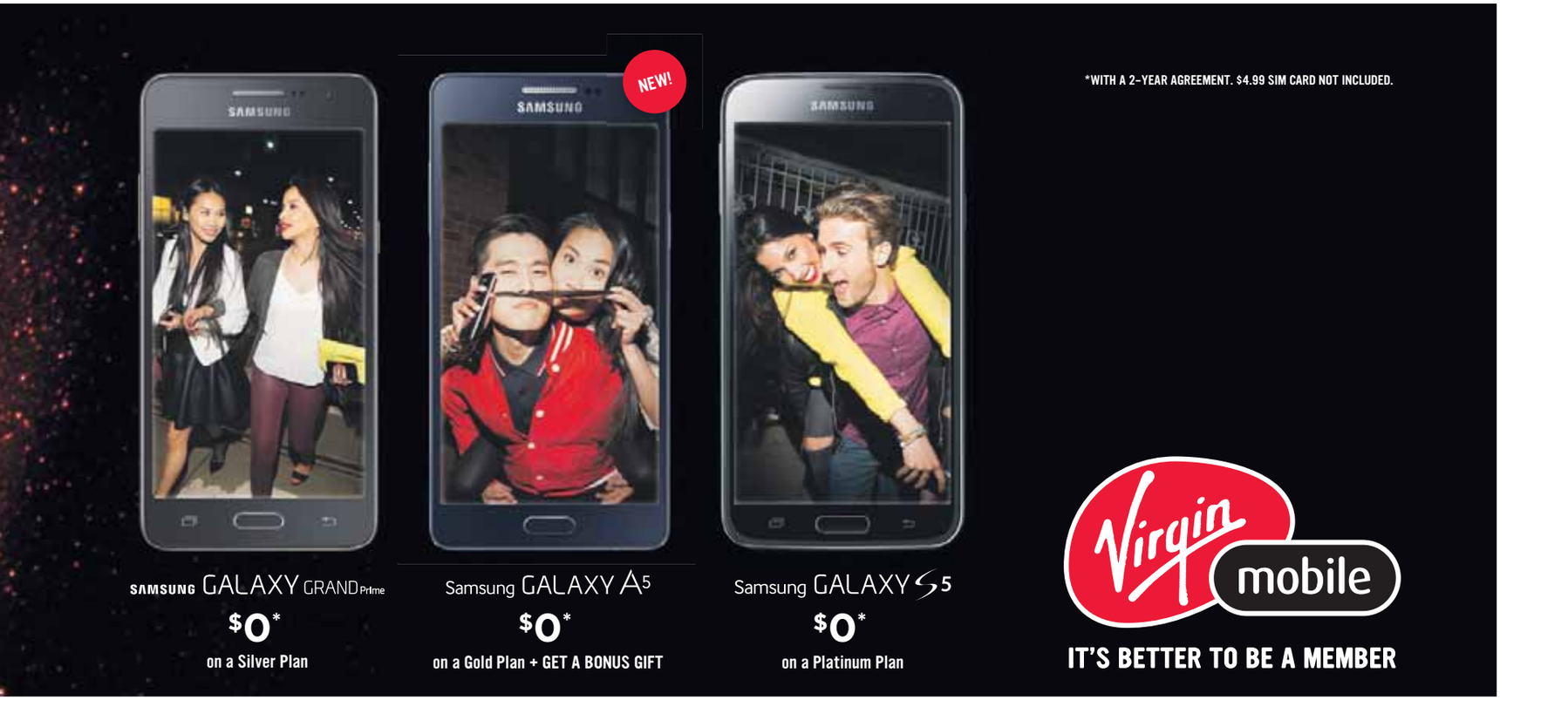
Police said the woman was walking along No. 3 Road when she was struck by a vehicle in a marked crosswalk. She was taken to hospital with life-threatening injuries.

"We are deeply saddened with this tragic loss," Cpl. Dennis Hwang of Richmond RCMP said in a news release. "These types of investigations are always difficult emotionally for all of the parties and the investigators."

Police said the driver, a 61-year-old woman, remained at the scene and tried to help. She is cooperating with investigators.

Speed and alcohol were not factors in the collision, police said.

THANDI FLETCHER/METRO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SUPREME COURT

Ottawa sues UBC

The federal government is suing the University of British Columbia and a former associate dean of the faculty of dentistry for allegedly misusing millions of dollars in government funds.

UBC received $10.6 million from Health Canada between 2002 and 2013 to provide dental services to First Nations residents on B.C.'s remote Haida Gwaii archipelago, according to a lawsuit filed in B.C. Supreme Court.

A statement of claim, citing a "heavily redacted" UBC investigation, alleges that only $7.3 million was actually used to run the two clinics in Skidegate and Old Masset Village, meaning UBC overbilled Health Canada by $3.3 million.

The suit alleges Dr. Christopher Zed, former associate dean of strategic and external affairs, fraudulently transferred millions, including $1.2 million to his personal bank account and $2 million in credit card payments to non-UBC accounts.

> **Dr. Zed had abused his position of trust at UBC ...**
> Statement of claim

"Dr. Zed had abused his position of trust at UBC and through complex and deceptive activities transferred public funds from Canada for his personal benefit and hid $5.1 million in spending from UBC's conclusive analysis," the statement of claim says.

"Dr. Zed's spending behaviour contravened the most basic expectations of an official entrusted to manage the Haida Dental Project for the benefit of marginalized and vulnerable communities."

The allegations have not been tested in court. Zed now works at a Vancouver dental practice, where he did not immediately return calls and emails requesting comment.

UBC lawyer Hubert Lai said in a statement that the university had not yet been served with the notice of civil claim and needed time to review it before commenting.

The lawsuit comes at a time when UBC is already facing scandals on several fronts, including the suspension of creative writing chairman Steven Galloway over undisclosed "serious allegations," and criticism from former and current history graduate students that the school mishandled sexual assault complaints about a PhD student.

Zed resigned from the faculty of dentistry in 2013 shortly after UBC notified the federal government of its concerns about financial operations at the Haida Gwaii clinics.

The university told the government it believed it had been overbilled for salaries related to dental residents, administrative services and hygienist services, and that as a result Zed and three other employees were no longer involved with the Haida Dental Project.

UBC launched an investigation that wrapped in May 2014 but did not disclose any of its findings to the federal government until March 2015.

Even then, it only provided "partial and limited disclosure," according to the statement of claim. THE CANADIAN PRESS

B.C. slammed over $1.5B Site C deal

PEACE RIVER

Announcement is a 'standard tactic': Chief Roland Wilson

BC Hydro's decision to push forward with a $1.5-billion construction contract for the Site C dam megaproject has prompted an outpouring of opposition from First Nations, environmental and advocacy groups across British Columbia.

The Crown corporation's president and CEO, Jessica McDonald, announced on Wednesday that the utility is poised to sign the largest deal in its history with Peace River Hydro Partners as the preferred proponent.

The work will include building a concrete foundation for the generating station and spillways, a pair of diversion tunnels and an enormous earthfill dam more than a kilometre long and 60 metres above current river level.

At a cost of almost $9 billion, the dam would be the third on the Peace River in northeastern B.C., creating a 83-kilometre-long reservoir and enough power for 450,000 homes a year.

The West Moberly First Nation is one of several groups with outstanding legal challenges against the megaproject over concerns about the impact

An artist's rendering of the proposed Site C hydroelectric dam on the Peace River. BC HYDRO

flooding and the creation of a new lake will have on the Peace River and the surrounding valley.

Moberly Chief Roland Willson described the province's decision to carry on with construction as a "standard tactic" used against opponents of infrastructure projects.

"They try and get as much done to go in front of the courts and say, 'Well look, we've spent all this money. You can't shut us down now,'" he said in an interview Wednesday.

"I hope (the province) doesn't get too far involved because there's still a strong possibility we could get this project shut down."

Ken Boon of the Peace Valley Landowners Association was similarly disappointed by the news, adding that B.C. is "making a big mistake" by pushing the project forward in the face of ongoing legal battles.

Boon dismissed what he saw as the province's disproportionate focus on the employment that would be generated by Site C. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Prime Minister Justin Trudeau meets the Queen during a private audience at Buckingham Palace, London, on Wednesday. YUI MOK/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

PM makes return to London palace

UNITED KINGDOM

Trudeau and family visit with Queen

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau reacquainted himself with Queen Elizabeth, this time as the prime minister of Canada rather than the son of Canada's parliamentary leader.

Trudeau, making his second whirlwind tour on the international summit circuit in as many weeks, met the Queen at Buckingham Palace Wednesday morning.

"Good morning . . . Very nice to see you again," the Queen told Trudeau as they shook hands. "In rather different circumstances, isn't it?"

"I will say, you were much taller than me the last time we met," Trudeau said, to laughter from the Queen.

"Yes, it's extraordinary to think of, isn't it?" the Queen answered, before taking a seat across from Trudeau to have a private conversation.

Trudeau shares history with the Queen, having met the now 89-year-old monarch when he was a child and his father, Pierre Trudeau, was prime minister.

On this trip, the Queen also met Sophie Grégoire-Trudeau and two of their three youngsters, Ella-Grace and Hadrien, who are travelling with them.

Trudeau then delivered a speech at Canada House in Trafalgar Square. He confirmed Canada would bring in 25,000 Syrian refugees by the end of February.

The government had originally pledged to meet its target by the end of the year, but pushed back the deadline this week.

THE CANADIAN PRESS & TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

DIPLOMACY

Justin Trudeau took to the international stage to pitch his Syrian refugee plan as an example of Canada's unique diversity to the world.

"We have a responsibility ... to show that inclusive diversity is a strength and a force that can vanquish intolerance, radicalism and hate," the prime minister said at Canada House.

THE CANADIAN PRESS & TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

DUFFY TRIAL

Court looks at Donohue

A sounding board, an adviser, a talent booker, an Internet researcher and web content consultant — Gerald Donohue was at different points all of these things to Sen. Mike Duffy.

The question before Ontario Court Justice Charles Vaillancourt is whether these roles constituted Senate business or fraud and a breach of the public's trust.

Eight of the 31 charges Duffy faces relate to $65,000 in Senate contracts awarded to Donohue. Duffy has pleaded not guilty.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

ABORIGINAL ISSUES

Manitoba first in native men killed

Elisha Dacey
Metro | Winnipeg

Brand new data released by Statistics Canada on Wednesday shows that aboriginal men are more likely to be murdered in Manitoba than in any other province.

Manitoba had 44 homicides last year, seven fewer than in 2014. However, 29 of those 44 victims were aboriginal, a rate of 66 per cent compared to the national average of 23 per cent.

Statistics Canada tracked aboriginal victims for the first time in its yearly study of Canada's homicides.

"It's quantifying what we already suspected," said Leslie Spillett, executive director of Ka Ni Kanichihk. "It comes out of the relationship Canada has had with indigenous people and has taken a long time to get there."

"Poverty, homelessness, losing that cultural identity, these are all things that have contributed historically to (the situation) many of these people are finding themselves in," said Winnipeg Police Service deputy chief Danny Smyth. "It makes them more vulnerable."

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Sorento SX Turbo AWD shown‡

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RELATIONSHIPS

Shop dumps your partner for you

Mallory Chate
For Metro | Toronto

Two brothers are turning what can be one of the messiest of life situations into a business.

The Breakup Shop hit the market two weeks ago, not too long after Mackenzie Keast, a Torontonian and co-founder, was "ghosted" by a woman he'd been seeing casually.

No email. No letter. Not even a Snapchat. She simply disappeared. And it got Keast thinking — maybe there's a market out there for helping people who say they want out.

Keast and his brother, Evan, started building the plan and are recruiting what they call "heartbreakers" — people who will help craft on-demand messages the shop will send to people who enlist their services.

Those services range from the very basic Snapchat messages to flower bouquets accompanied by a text to personalized breakup phone calls, placed of course by one of the heartbreakers. Prices start at $5 and go up from there depending on the level of service.

Customers can add to any package by sending items like copies of The Notebook or cookies through the company's online gift shop.

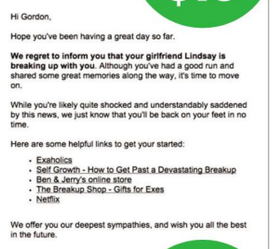
One option — the $80 breakup gift pack — comes packaged in a box called the "memory oven," which the creators suggest filling with memories of your ex and setting on fire.

"Give us the money and we will give you the service," Keast said.

While they're not love experts, the brothers have, over the years, "been on both sides" of the difficult-to-end relationship equation, Keast noted.

That said, they're looking to hire at least some heartbreakers with backgrounds in things like couples therapy and psychology. They're also looking to expand into face-to-face breakups, carried out, of course, by a complete stranger.

Standard email: $10



Hi Gordon,

Hope you've been having a great day so far.

We regret to inform you that your girlfriend Lindsay is breaking up with you. Although you've had a good run and shared some great memories along the way, it's time to move on.

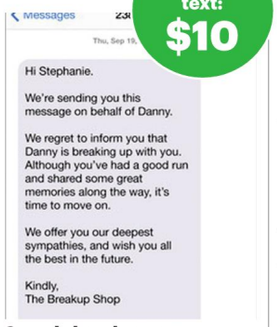
While you're likely quite shocked and understandably saddened by this news, we just know that you'll be back on your feet in no time.

Here are some helpful links to get your started:

- Exaholics
- Self Growth - How to Get Past a Devastating Breakup
- Ben & Jerry's online store
- The Breakup Shop - Gifts for Exes
- Netflix

We offer you our deepest sympathies, and wish you all the best in the future.

Standard text: $10



Messages

Thu, Sep 19

Hi Stephanie.

We're sending you this message on behalf of Danny.

We regret to inform you that Danny is breaking up with you. Although you've had a good run and shared some great memories along the way, it's time to move on.

We offer you our deepest sympathies, and wish you all the best in the future.

Kindly,
The Breakup Shop

Sample breakup text.
BREAKUPSHOP.COM

Sgt. Matt MacIsaac removes some of his belongings from storage at CFB Kingston on Nov. 23 to prepare for the upcoming arrival of Syrian refugees. LARS HAGBERG/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Military on standby

LOGISTICS

Medical and security screening will be overseas

Staff at Canadian Forces bases across the country are counting beds and making tentative plans to house and feed thousands of Syrian refugees expected to arrive in the coming weeks.

Capt. Evelyne Lemire, a spokeswoman at CFB Gagetown in New Brunswick, said they have not yet been told they will receive some of the 25,000 refugees the Canadian government has promised to accept by February.

But she said they have been asked to see how many they could accommodate at the sprawling base as part of what the military has dubbed Operation Provision.

"We've been asked to look at our options, our accommodations and so on, like the numbers," she said from the base near Oromocto.

"We're ready to receive any Syrian refugees, if we're called on to do that."

Lemire said the base at Gagetown is looking at everything from how to provide food and medical services to allocating space for religious practice for refugees from Turkey, Lebanon and Jordan.

It's expected that bases in Quebec and Ontario will be called on first to provide interim lodging for refugees, with bases and wings in other provinces expected to follow suit after the first wave of Syrians arrives.

> **"We're ready to receive any Syrian refugees, if we're called on to do that."**
> Capt. Evelyne Lemire

The Forces could be asked to temporarily accommodate up to 13,000 refugees.

The newly elected Liberal government announced its plans Tuesday to resettle the refugees, saying it will miss by two months its initial deadline of Dec. 31 to bring 25,000 to Canada.

The new target is to receive 10,000 people by year's end and the remainder in the first two months of 2016.

Health and security screening will take place overseas and then refugees will be flown to Toronto and Montreal, largely on chartered aircraft.

From there, they will be spread across 36 different destination cities, which already have resettlement programs in place.

Temporary accommodation will be provided by the military, if required.

The Forces have said they want to use empty beds and not displace military members, but may have to do some shuffling of personnel at bases in Valcartier, Que., and Edmonton.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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POLITICS

Trudeau right to delay: Experts

Michael Woods
Metro | Ottawa

Strictly speaking, the Liberal government's plan to bring in 10,000 Syrian refugees by Dec. 31 and another 15,000 by March — rather than all 25,000 by end of year — is Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's first broken promise.

But the government's decision to lightly tap the brakes on the resettlement process is being lauded by experts who implored them to take a bit more time to do it right.

"It would have been very problematic if they had stuck to the Dec. 31 deadline at all costs," said James Milner, a professor at Carleton University and former consultant with the UN High Commissioner for Refugees.

"On balance, there's a real sigh of relief that the deadline has been extended."

The outcry for more time was among Immigration Minister John McCallum's messages when he announced the plan.

"I've heard Canadians across this country saying yes, you have to do it right, and if it takes a little bit longer to do it right then take the extra time," he said.

The Liberal platform said it would "expand Canada's intake of refugees from Syria by 25,000 through immediate government sponsorship."

However, the refugees here by the end of February will also include privately sponsored ones, not just government-assisted as the platform promised.

But McCallum said government-sponsored refugees would continue to arrive.

"Through the rest of 2016, we will bring in more ... government-assisted refugees to make up the difference, so that we will have reached the number 25,000 and thereby kept our promise," he said.

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S-400 air-defence missile systems make their way through Red Square during a rehearsal for the Victory Day military parade in Moscow in May 2013. The missiles are capable of striking targets within a 400-kilometre range. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

Putin orders move of missiles to Syria

RUSSIA

Response to Turkey's downing of Russian jet

In a move raising the potential threat of a Russia-NATO conflict, Russia said Wednesday it will deploy long-range air-defence missiles to its base in Syria and destroy targets that may threaten its warplanes following the downing of a Russian military jet by Turkey.

The incident was the first time in 50 years that a NATO member shot down a Russian plane. If Russia responds by downing a Turkish plane, Turkey could proclaim itself under attack and ask the alliance for military assistance.

Most observers believe a direct military confrontation is unlikely, but the shooting down of the plane will further fuel the Syrian conflict and complicate international peace efforts.

The situation is also alarming because the Russian and Turkish presidents both pose as strong leaders and would be reluctant to back down and seek a compromise.

The S-400 missiles, which Russian President Vladimir Putin ordered sent to the Hemeimeem air base in Syria's province of Latakia, just 50 kilometres away from the border with Turkey, are capable of striking targets within a 400-kilometre range with deadly precision. The military also moved the navy missile cruiser Moskva closer to the shore to help protect Russian warplanes with its long-range Fort air defence system. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

RESCUE

Rebels kill pilot after pair parachute from aircraft

Two Russian pilots parachuted from their aircraft Tuesday near the border with Turkey after a Turkish F-16 fighter jet hit their plane with a TOW missile.

Syrian rebels on the ground fatally shot the pilot. The co-pilot landed in ravines, where a Syrian commando unit rescued him. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

BELGIUM

Armed police meet returning students

When Annelaure Leger dropped off her two children at school on Wednesday, it was like nearly every other day — except for the machine-gun-toting police officer.

After a two-day school shutdown sparked by a threat alert across the Belgian capital, Brussels resident Leger was relieved classes were back in session.

Though Brussels continues to be under the highest-level threat alert, meaning authorities fear a serious and imminent attack, schools and subways began reopening across the city on Wednesday. That is restoring a sense of normality in the city, parts of which have been deserted since the alert was first raised to the top level in the capital on Saturday.

> **I've told my children they have to be careful, but life must go on and they have to go back to school now.**
> Dimitri De Cra Yencour, a father of four

The terrorism threat level is expected to be in place until at least Monday unless there are significant developments, like the capturing of suspects linked to the Paris terrorist attacks on Nov. 13, who are believed to be in Belgium.

At Brussels' College Saint-Jean-Berchmans, many parents had a word with school officials or the police officers guarding the entrance. Some experts warned that without a further explanation of the situation, officials risked undermining the public's trust.

"It seems paradoxical to say that (Brussels) is still at the highest threat level but it's OK to open schools and subways," said Neil Greenberg, a professor of mental health at King's College London. "It's not very helpful to reassure people that everything is safe without sharing more information about what has actually been done." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

IRAQ

Kurdish forces find ISIL tunnels

Under the Iraqi town of Sinjar, militants from the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) built a network of tunnels, complete with sleeping quarters, wired with electricity and fortified with sandbags.

There, they had boxes of U.S.-made ammunition, medicines and copies of the Qur'an stashed on shelves.

The Associated Press obtained extensive video footage of the tunnels, which were uncovered by Kurdish forces that took the city in northwestern Iraq earlier this month after more than a year of ISIL rule.

"We found between 30 and 40 tunnels inside Sinjar," said Shamo Eado, a commander from Sinjar from the Iraqi Kurdish fighters known as peshmerga. "It was like a network inside the city."

"Daesh dug these trenches in order to hide from airstrikes and have free movement underground, as well as to store weapons and explosives," Eado said using an Arabic acronym for ISIL.

The video, shot by a freelancer touring the town with Kurdish fighters, showed two tunnels running several hundred metres, each starting and ending from houses, through holes knocked in walls or floors.

The narrow tunnels, carved in the rock apparently with jackhammers or other handheld equipment, are just tall enough for a man to stand in.

ISIL has been digging tunnels throughout the territory it controls in Iraq and Syria, even before the U.S.-led coalition launched its campaign of airstrikes against the group more than a year ago.

"This has been part of ISIL's strategy from the very beginning," said Lina Khatib, a senior research associate at the Arab Reform initiative, a Paris-based think-tank. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

TUNISIA

Militants say they were behind attack

The body of a suspected suicide bomber was found at the scene of an attack on Tunisia's presidential guard in Tunis as the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) claimed responsibility Wednesday for the attack that left 13 people dead.

Tuesday's attack on a bus carrying Tunisia's presidential guards involved about 10 kilograms of military explosives, the Interior Ministry said.

The blast rattled the country after a violent year. If ISIL was indeed behind it, it is the latest of several major attacks in Europe and the Mideast seeding terror well beyond its base in Syria and Iraq.

Tunisian authorities discovered the body of a 13th person in the bus, believed to be the "terrorist who caused the explosion," the Interior Ministry said in a statement Wednesday.

Ministry spokesman Walid Louguini said this body couldn't be identified by fingerprints because no fingers were found. The ministry said a DNA analysis of the body is underway.

The government declared the blast a terrorist attack and imposed a 30-day nationwide state of emergency, with troops fanned out across the capital.

ISIL issued a statement Wednesday, saying a militant it identified as Abu Abdullah al-Tunisi carried out the attack after infiltrating the bus and killing around 20 "apostates." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

ON JUNE 26

Current suicide bombing follows earlier violence

Earlier this year, Tunisia suffered two major attacks by Islamic extremists that targeted tourist sites. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Police officers on Wednesday secure the site of a suicide bombing Tuesday in Tunis. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Gazprom's Moscow headquarters. Russia's state-run gas company said it had stopped shipments to Ukraine on Wednesday; Kyiv said it halted the purchases. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

Countries clash over natural gas

RUSSIA-UKRAINE

Kyiv also bars Moscow's planes from its airspace

Tensions between Russia and Ukraine escalated Wednesday as Ukraine decided to stop buying Russian natural gas — hoping to rely on supplies from other countries — and closed its airspace to its eastern neighbour.

Russia's annexation of Crimea from Ukraine in 2014 and its support for separatist rebels has brought relations between the two countries to a post-Soviet low. Ukraine has since tried to cut its dependence on Russian gas.

Russia's state-controlled gas company, Gazprom, said Wednesday that it stopped sending gas to Ukraine on Wednesday morning and will supply no more because Ukraine has not paid in advance for more deliveries.

Ukraine said it was its own decision to stop buying gas from Russia after it was offered better prices by other European countries, which import gas from Russia but can pipe it back to Ukraine.

Gazprom CEO Alexei Miller warned Ukraine and Europe of possible gas disruptions following the cut-off. Russia uses Ukraine's pipelines to transport part of its gas to Europe. Ukraine's "refusal to buy Russian gas threatens a safe gas transit to Europe through Ukraine and gas supplies to Ukraine consumers in the coming winter," Miller said.

The European Commission, which has been mediating the gas row, noted that Ukraine's gas reserves are well stocked and that recent mild weather has reduced consumption.

Ukrainian Prime Minister Arseny Yatsenyuk also said Ukraine is closing its airspace to all Russian planes as "an issue of the national security as well as a response to Russia's aggressive actions."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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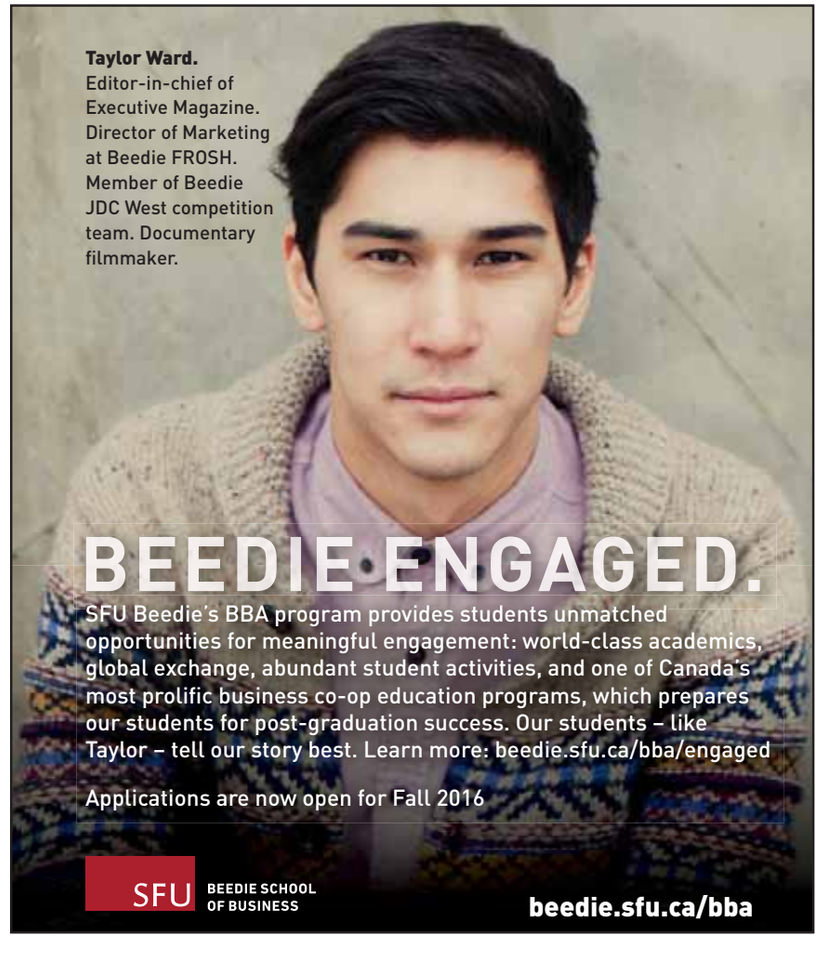

Taylor Ward. Editor-in-chief of Executive Magazine. Director of Marketing at Beedie FROSH. Member of Beedie JDC West competition team. Documentary filmmaker.

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AFGHANISTAN

Hospital bombing broke rules: Officials

American soldiers and airmen who killed and wounded dozens of civilians in a strike on an Afghanistan hospital violated U.S. rules of engagement and have been suspended as they await disciplinary action that could include criminal charges, military officials said Wednesday.

Briefing reporters on the results of two investigations, Gen. John Campbell, the U.S. commander in Afghanistan, described an egregious series of human and technical failures that led a U.S. warplane to destroy a medical charity's hospital in northern Afghanistan last month. Campbell and other officials would not say how many people had been removed from their jobs or whether anyone higher in the chain of command would be subject to discipline.

> **This was a tragic but avoidable accident caused primarily by human error.**
> Gen. John Campbell

"This was a tragic but avoidable accident caused primarily by human error," Campbell said. He left open the possibility that disciplinary action, which has yet to be determined, could include courts-martial.

Christopher Stokes, general director of Doctors Without Borders, whose hospital was attacked, said the U.S. military's statements Wednesday left his organization with more questions than answers.

"The frightening catalogue of errors outlined today illustrates gross negligence on the part of U.S. forces and violations of the rules of war.," Stokes said.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Protesters march during a protest in Chicago on Tuesday for 17-year-old Laquan McDonald, who was fatally shot and killed in October 2014. PAUL BEATY/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

City holding its breath

CHICAGO

Footage of black teen's death launches protests

The white officer who shot a black Chicago teen 16 times has been charged with murder and jailed. The graphic video of the slaying has been made public. And in the hours after the footage was released, protesters seemed to honour pleas for restraint.

The question now is whether those efforts will be enough to address the simmering resentment that authorities took more than a year to share the footage and charge the officer who emptied an entire magazine into the teen even after he had crumpled to the ground.

City officials and community leaders had long braced for the release of the dash-cam video showing the death of 17-year-old Laquan McDonald. They feared the kind of turmoil that occurred in cities such as Baltimore and Ferguson, Missouri, after young black men were slain by police or died in police custody.

A judge ordered that the recording be made public by Wednesday. Moments before it was released, the mayor and the police chief urged protesters to stay calm.

Mayor Rahm Emanuel said residents will "have to make an important judgment about our city and ourselves and go forward." He referred to the episode as a potential "moment of understanding and learning."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

IN BRIEF

N.Y. subway ads with Nazi imagery cause outrage

An ad campaign that featured Nazi imagery has been pulled from the New York City subway system.

Seats on the 42nd Street shuttle between Times Square and Grand Central Terminal were wrapped in Nazi images to promote an Amazon video series called The Man in the High Castle, depicting the U.S. if the Axis powers triumphed.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Mexican border crossings double same time 2014

Nearly 5,000 unaccompanied immigrant children were caught illegally crossing the U.S. border with Mexico in October, almost double the number from October 2014, according to U.S. Customs and Border Protection data.

The number of family members crossing together nearly tripled from October 2014 — from 2,162 to 6,029. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

metro VIEWS
Your essential daily news
Thursday, November 26, 2015

CHANTAL HÉBERT: ON THE CHARBONNEAU COMMISSION

As Justin Trudeau's government ponders how best to fulfil its commitment to a national inquiry into missing and murdered aboriginal women, the Quebec experience offers a few pointers.

The release on Tuesday of the long-awaited report of the Quebec public inquiry into corruption in the construction industry served as a timely reminder that it's a rare commission that lives up to the expectations that preside over its creation.

It did not formally blame a single elected or non-elected individual for the corruption and collusion that has run rampant in the province's governance system. The commission sketched out patterns of systemic collusion in some details but failed or declined to connect the dots.

Justice France Charbonneau and her co-commissioner, former Quebec auditor general Renaud Lachance, could not even agree that an indirect link between illicit industry donations to the province's political parties and the awarding of public works contracts had been established.

As Justin Trudeau's government ponders how to fulfil its commitment to a national inquiry into missing and murdered aboriginal women, the Quebec experience offers a few pointers.

That starts with a workable mandate. The Charbonneau commission has been compared to the decade-old inquiry into the federal sponsorship program. But justice John Gomery's work was focused on a single federal program. Charbonneau's mandate was more open-ended. The construction industry interacts with Quebec politics at all levels of government.

The line between an overabundant choice of avenues and a lack of direction is a thin one. From the outside, the Charbonneau commission frequently looked like a rudderless boat on an ocean-fishing expedition.

Just prior to its year-end break in 2012, the inquiry released an extensive blue-ribbon list of guests at a Montreal private club. The rationale for bringing up the list remains a mystery. There are other examples of testimony of little apparent relevance to the final report.

Gomery's sponsorship inquiry heard from two (past and present) Liberal prime ministers. The Charbonneau commission — even as it deemed to explore political financing — called neither former Quebec premier Jean Charest nor any other provincial leader to testify at its public hearings.

Then there are the perils of an elastic timeline.

The Charbonneau inquiry was set up in 2011. It was subsequently extended twice for a total of 25 months. Its four years of existence stretched over three Quebec governments and as many premiers.

With every extension, the impetus that had led to its launch seeped away. The reputations of some public personalities were left twisting in the wind for months.

Last year, former construction magnate Tony Accurso threw a bombshell at the inquiry hearings when he testified he had funnelled $250,000 to former Montreal police chief Jacques Duchesneau to pay off the debts accumulated over the latter's failed 1998 mayoral campaign.

Accurso claimed he had a paper trail to document the payoff. But on Tuesday, the commission reported the promised proof never materialized. That was after Duchesneau spent a year under the cloud of Accurso's allegations.

The Charbonneau commission cost Quebec taxpayers $45 million. Its final report ran more than 1,700 pages. On Tuesday, Philippe Couillard's government threw it out to the public with no advance lock-up to give media the opportunity to take stock of its voluminous content and its 60 recommendations.

The predictable result was that much of the initial coverage focused on the bright shiny object of the irreconcilable difference of opinion between the two commissioners as to the relationship between party financing and provincial public spending. Quebec's ruling political class had a better day Tuesday than the commission that reported on the many failings on its watch.

Ultimately, the Charbonneau commission best accomplished its mission on the front of public awareness. Its hearings vividly illustrated the toll corruption and collusion have taken on public services. And they did demonstrate that the problem was systemic. Time will tell whether those findings translate into a lasting change in ethical culture.

The upcoming federal inquiry into missing and murdered aboriginal women will also serve a public-education purpose and undoubtedly raise the profile of an issue that cries for more attention. But based on Quebec's just-completed inquiry, care should be taken to ensure the exercise results in more than allowing a government to tick a sensitive item off its bucket list.

Chantal Hébert is a national affairs writer. Her column appears in Metro every Thursday.

THE MICROTREND: Cat Cafés

Wannabe pet owners starved for time or space have a fresh option: mix coffee time with cuddles at a cat café. These coffee shops allow you to bond with resident cats, often shelter animals available to a good home. The feline-friendly restos are popular throughout Asia, particularly in Japan, but are popping up across Canada. Montreal was first to pounce on the fad. Now Ontario has cat cafés in Guelph and Toronto and there's another planned for Vancouver. If you want mo' cat with your mocha, go to Montreal. Quebec's laws on these café/petting zoo hybrids are the most lax, so felines can mix and mingle in the eatery. Not so in Ontario, where laws dictate the pets must be kept in a separate room. Still, it's the perfect solution for those with cat commitment issues — speed-dating, but with more fur. METRO

metroview

Make it easier to make things right for wrongfully convicted

Diane Baker Mason
For Metro

Earlier this month, a funeral was held for Romeo Phillion. Romeo was 76. He spent 31 of those 76 years in prison for a murder he didn't commit. He was convicted despite both the police and the Crown having in their hands a police report confirming his alibi — a report they did not provide to his lawyer.

Romeo was one of Canada's wrongly convicted: a victim of a "miscarriage of justice." People who are wrongly convicted have little hope of righting that wrong. They go to prison. Sometimes, as in Phillion's case, for decades. Sometimes for the rest of their lives.

That innocent people go to jail is something the un-jailed populace would prefer to believe doesn't happen. We would all like to believe that tales of wrongful convictions — populated as they are by dishonest cops, unreliable evidence and mistaken witnesses — are the stuff of Hollywood melodrama. Who hasn't cringed at the innocent prisoner in The Shawshank Redemption, crawling through the sewer to get his freedom back?

Canadian victims of wrongful convictions have to do another type of crawling — uphill, towards a review of their case by the minister of justice. These rare applications are usually undertaken with the assistance of a volunteer group, such as the Innocence Project or the Association in Defence of the Wrongly Convicted (AIDWYC). It's grindingly slow and often made slower by authorities in no hurry to produce information and documents. Faced with the possibility that an innocent person is in jail, many circle their wagons, providing only minimal cooperation. This is particularly disturbing when it turns out the application has merit.

How to encourage the authorities to be more accommodating? Since their reluctance might be caused in part by fear of exposure to a lawsuit by the exonerated victim, the creation of a compensation fund in the nature of the already-existing Criminal Injuries Compensation Fund might reduce that concern. In addition, an overseeing authority, such as an ombudsman, could be authorized to supervise the application process, ensuring that information and documentation is produced on a timeline, and assist the applicant's advocates if they are stonewalled.

In Romeo's case, it was 11 years between the Innocence Project and AIDWYC accepting his case and the Ontario Court of Appeal overturning his conviction. It would have been much less had his advocates not had to wrestle with the authorities to obtain documents and information. And that, as the saying goes, is a crime.

Diane Baker Mason is a Toronto-based novelist, writer and retired lawyer.

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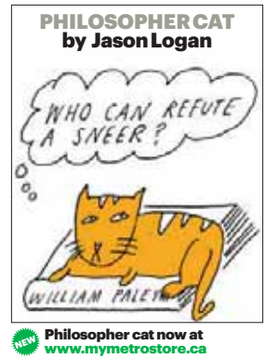

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metro LIFE
Your essential daily news

Pope Francis to publish his first book in January

Hibernate with these books

WINTER

Here are nine reads we wouldn't mind on a snow day

With winter's chill settling over most of the country, its time to grab a blanket, brew some tea or heat some cocoa, and curl up with a good book. Thousands of great reads were released this year, so choosing one may be difficult. To help you out, we pared down the list of top critics' picks to what we think are the top non-fiction and fiction books of 2015.

It's time for wool socks, a cup of tea and a good book. ISTOCK

Non-Fiction

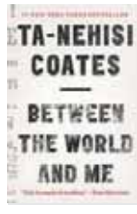
H is for Hawk by Helen MacDonald

Published in North America this year (it debuted in the U.K. in 2014), Helen MacDonald's unusual memoir captured the hearts and imaginations of reviewers all over the continent. A Torstar reviewer called it: "An astonishing memoir of grief and love, of loss and connection, H Is For Hawk is nature writing for the new century, resonant and accessible, wise and fragile. Like the goshawk upon which it centers, it is a thing of beauty, of blood, of violence, of joy;" "a memoir about dealing with grief (the death of her father) … it is seldom that such a thoughtful accomplished book touches a nerve with ordinary readers; "this award-winning book is soaringly original and gorgeously written."

The Dorito Effect by Mark Schatzker

This is not your average food book. Mark Schatzker uses science to shed light on the connection between nutrition and flavour — showing how our tastebuds no longer lead us to the most nutritious food, but to foods that are leading us into obesity and diabetes. Here's what our reviewers had to say: "fabulous research into why food has no taste and why we need to demand more;" "The best part? The solution he lays out involves a lot of good eating: top-quality, fresh, local, seasonal produce that restores our taste buds' primary function. A game changer!

Between The World and Me, Ta-Nehisi Coates



In a year when violence and racism against black people by the police made headlines in America and Canada both, The Atlantic writer Ta-Nehisi Coates struck a chord with this slim (it's only 152 pages) but powerful volume which uses the frame of a father's letter to his son. "Coates is being called the spokesman for black America. Toni Morrison has expressed relief that finally a black writer has come along to fill the space left by James Baldwin." "Coates … recognizes his son's world is both incredibly different from his own yet also eerily similar — definitely an important book of the year, especially in considering the impact of #BlackLivesMatter;"

M Train, Patti Smith

The memoir can be a tricky thing to write and rock legend Patti Smith has had a couple of goes at it: But this latest has struck a chord among music fans and prose "Ah, to age like Patti Smith. While M Train lacks the emotional immediacy of Just Kids, her earlier memoir, it is a deliberate choice, leading to a deeper, more thoughtful volume, an accounting of love and loss, of wonder and fear, of cups of coffee and episodes of beloved television series. Perhaps the most lively meditation on the act — and art — of living one is likely to find this year;" "very poetic and original, almost like a prose version of one of her songs."

On The Move, Oliver Sacks

Neurologist Oliver Sacks was a storyteller — his expertise was science, but he made it accessible, educating us through telling stories of his patients in Awakenings and The Man Who Mistook His Wife For a Hat. Before his death in August, he was still enlightening us with stories and his memoir On The Move, touched readers everywhere, including our reviewers: "Sacks' thoughtful and conscientious approach to his own death served as a reminder of the writer and neurologist's deep engagement with the very nature of life. His memoir … brims with life even in the shadow of death;" "It isn't an exaggeration to say that Sacks was "beloved" for the freshness of his intellect, his enthusiasm, his fascination with the workings of human beings. And the publication of this autobiography in the final months of his life was a brilliant cap to an admirable life."

Fiction

Martin John, Anakana Schofield

Anakana Schofield has hit the publishing world like a storm. This book was nominated for the Scotiabank Giller Prize despite being about an uncomfortable subject: inside the mind of a sexual deviant. Still, our reviewers picked this as one of the top five of the year with comments such as: "Formally audacious and incisive writing that's also got plenty of heart and quirk;" "admiring the stylistic and thematic risks Schofield has taken with it;" "a novel that mirrors its protagonist's obsessive and deviant behavior in its elastic prose;" "a case study in mother-son drama where mental illness and an overbearing parent collide ... A dark, comic and moving portrait of the guilt, pain and suffering of the mentally ill."

The Girl on the Train, Paula Hawkins

It's not often a first-time novelist dominates the top of the best-seller lists for a year. But that's exactly what Hawkins has accomplished with The Girl on The Train. Our reviewers agree: "In this fresh, female-focused psychological chiller, a young woman is drawn into a mystery involving people she observes during her daily London commute. Paula Hawkins' bestselling debut novel is an addictive page-turner with intoxicating characters, unflagging suspense and sharp insights into women's lives and relationships;" "this year's escapist reading sensation. Gone Girl for 2015. As it should be. It is a page-turning suspender with a satisfying resolution. And we all love an unreliable narrator."

Story of the Lost Child, Elena Ferrante

Writing about real life has informed some of the biggest books in the past few years. If Karl Ove Knausgaard has written a semi-autobiographical memoir from the male perspective, Elena Ferrante's (this is a pen name — nobody knows who the real author is) four-volume saga has redefined what it means to write about female friendship. As one reviewer notes: "The final volume of Ferrante's Neapolitan novels is a stunning achievement, a seemingly effortless accounting of the lives of two women that maintains an often shocking intimacy and emotional candour while also serving as a sweeping document of social, political, religious and cultural upheaval."

Sleep, Nino Ricci

A protagonist nobody likes is the dark star of this latest novel by the Canadian author of Lives of the Saints, and many of our reviewers thought it was a real dark horse this year. "Sleep was unaccountably overlooked this literary prize season, despite being Ricci's best work yet. Perhaps the unlikeable protagonist — the sleep-deprived, pill-popping, skirt-chasing, gun-toting David Pace — alienated jurors. As a nightmarish chronicle of mid-life male failure, however, the novel packs quite a punch;" "Ricci's work has gotten better as it's gotten darker. This one is pretty close to pitch black;" "If endemic narcissism is one of the central pathologies of contemporary culture, then Ricci has crafted with Sleep one of its holy texts." TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Fairy tale hits all the right notes

NEW RELEASES

Glee star talks growing up, grandma

The angelic-voiced Chris Colfer may have broken through to TV stardom as Kurt Hummel on Glee when he sang Defying Gravity, but these days he's smashing sales records in the publishing industry as well.

His series of four volumes of revisionist fairy tales, under the umbrella title The Land of Stories, has been No. 1 on the New York Times bestseller list, while the first picture book inspired by the series, The Curvy Tree, debuted last month to strong sales. Fans of Colfer's fabulous fables are waiting for the boxed set, Adventures From the Land of Stories, to hit the streets on Nov. 24.

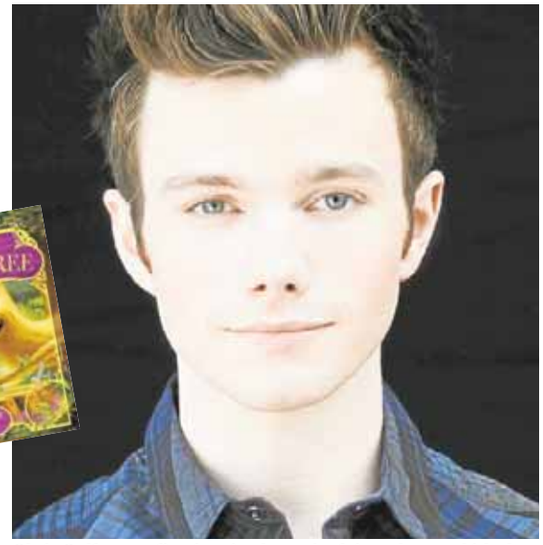
It's quite a lot for the 25-year-old from Clovis, Calif., to have on his plate, but on the phone from New York he seems just about the nicest young guy you'd ever want to chat with, lacking all of his alter-ego Kurt's sometimes abrasive fashionista baggage.

"Thank you for recognizing that Kurt and I are two different people," he says. "Don't get me wrong, I loved playing him, but we're not the same in so many ways. When I walked into my audition for Glee, I was a small-town kid wearing scruffy jeans and a shirt from Target."

In fact, when Colfer auditioned for the show, he was originally brought in to try out for the role of Artie. But the show's creator, Ryan Murphy, sensed something in Colfer and created Kurt for him.

"That was fantastic, sure, but I had to do a lot of homework really quick. I used to keep watching The Devil Wears Prada on repeat to soak up all the gestures and mannerisms. I don't think anybody ever guessed that I was channelling Meryl Streep's judgmental looks as Kurt."

Colfer made a big impression from the start when Glee hit the air in 2009, but it was the ninth episode that season, Wheels, that really did the trick. Colfer and Lea Michele's character Rachel battled over who would sing Defying Gravity from the musical Wicked.



Chris Colfer was first inspired to write fairy tales as a kid when his sister was suffering from seizures. AFP

"That came from my own life," says Colfer. "I always wanted to sing it in high school, but the teachers wouldn't let me because they said it was a girl's song. My grandmother finally let me sing it in the church where she was a reverend.

"That song meant the world to me. Wicked was about someone who nobody paid attention to and who had a sister with special needs."

Colfer's voice gets husky as he explains the next part of his story.

"When I was a kid, my sister, who was five years younger, was diagnosed with epilepsy. Sometimes she would have 50 seizures in an hour. It was a very, very difficult period for the whole family. That's when I started creating fairy tales in my head and writing them down. I just couldn't write enough and my grandmother persuaded me to wait.

"She said, 'Christopher, I think you should wait until you've done with elementary school before worrying about being a failed writer.'"

But when Colfer got to middle school he had other problems to deal with.

"That's when the bullying started. My voice may have matured over the years, but it's never changed. So there I was, a sensitive kid with an effeminate voice. I wasn't feminine in any of my mannerisms, but I was growing up in a very, very conservative place, so that was enough."

An agent had signed Colfer at 14 because of his amazing voice, "but I never got any work. I was always auditioning for the nerd trying to get laid or the jock with a heart of gold, and you can see why I didn't get any of those parts."

But two weeks into his first year at college, came the audition for Glee and the world shifted on its axis for Colfer.

"I think having someone like Kurt on the show changed things for a lot of kids. There I was, a gay guy who wasn't written to be a punching bag. Someone who had a soul behind the eyes. Someone who people were rooting for.

What kind of advice would Colfer offer to the kids out there struggling to define themselves?

"I'd say get out there and see the world. It's much bigger than your high school."

And then he thinks of a line he wrote in The Curvy Tree that sums it all up. "Being different may have been difficult, but it's what saved me." TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

BOOKS CHERYL STRAYED'S BRAVE ENOUGH

Wild author releases new book

Author Cheryl Strayed has become somewhat of an advice guru. People were following her advice before even knowing it was Strayed who was giving it through her Dear Sugar column for The Rumpus. Replying anonymously to the desperate advice seekers who would write in, Strayed wove words to live by while also revealing much about her own personal life. After her identity was revealed, a compiliation of her Dear Sugar column turned into the best-selling book, Tiny Beautiful Things.

Then came Wild, Strayed's memoir and story of walking the Pacific Crest Trail shortly after her mother's death and after the demise of her marriage. The book, of course, was turned into a blockbuster movie starring Reese Witherspoon.

Now, Strayed is back with a new book, "Brave Enough." The book is a compilation of various Strayed-isms and life mottos. They are the type of phrases you write down and keep in your wallet, or at least tweet to your followers, giving them something to think about. Whether you want to gift a friend with something that could help them through a hard time or just want to feel inspired yourself, "Brave Enough" is a book worth checking out. EMILY LAURENCE/ METRO IN NEW YORK

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Glory in the art of Florence

Florence's art spanning 500 years is assembled and explained by art historians Ross King and Anja Grebe in Florence: The Paintings and Frescoes, 1250-1743 (Black Dog & Leventhal). Drawing on religion and myths deeply rooted in Italian culture, artists retold well-known stories by depicting angels, gods, saints and royalty as seen here. **TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE**

MICHELANGELO

Tondi Doni, 1504-07

Nude males lounge in the background, a heathen past behind the Holy Family in red, blue and orange creating a family circle in the foreground. They could be sculptures, with muscles delineated and robes folded and flowing. The Madonna is powerful, reaching behind her for the pudgy curly-haired infant, held safe in his foster father's arms. John the Baptist peaks from the corner. Created for the marriage of merchant Agnolo Doni, it hung in the couples' bedroom.

FRA ANGELICO

Black Death, 1420

Pestilence, famine and the Black Death shrank Florence from a thriving city of 120,000 people to a mere 42,000 souls. People pray and are comforted in a densely populated hillside village with wild beasts, lions, deer and dragons. Religion is salvation and comfort in the dark days.

MASOLINO DA PANICHE

Healing of the Cripple and Raising of Tabitha, 1423-28

Two different Biblical miracles — healing a crippled man and bringing a charitable woman back from the dead — are put together in one scene and attributed to Saint Peter.

FRA ANGELICO

Annunciation, 1438-45

The annunciation — when the angel came down to earth to tell Mary she was going to have a baby named Jesus — is a story frequently depicted. This light-filled painting hangs today in the convent where Fra Angelico lived as a member of the Dominican order at the convent of San Marco.

NEW RELEASES

The Clasp is an old-fashioned coming-of-age caper

Sue Carter
For Metro Canada

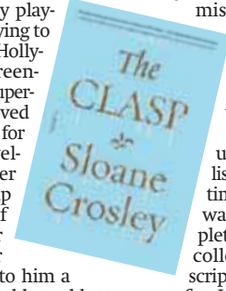
Mumblecore has become a go-to term to describe a certain type of low-budget indie film noted for being all real talk and no action.

Made popular by directors like the Duplass Brothers, the films follow the mundane lives of characters in their 20s or 30s, typically caught in some kind of juvenile freeze-frame, dissatisfied with their lives, careers and relationships. Often there's an unrequited romance to be resolved at the end of the two hours.

If Sloane Crosley's debut novel, The Clasp, was adapted for film (which, Hollywood, take note, it should), it most likely would not be considered mumblecore.

Though her characters navigate the same soul-crushing realities of early adulthood, Crosley has wrapped their stories around an old-fashioned caper that shakes them out of their navel-gazing reality and into a French countryside chateau. In the sharp ways that she deals with social issues like wealth and class, Crosley is a closer cousin to Oscar Wilde than Lena Dunham.

The Clasp follows three 30-somethings reunited at a posh university friend's wedding. There's sad Victor, who was just fired from a second-rate search engine tech company; literary playboy Nathaniel, trying to make a living in Hollywood selling screenplays about fake superheroes; and beloved Kezia, who works for a tyrannical jewellery designer. After Victor is woken up by the mother of the groom after passing out in her bed, she reveals to him a story about a valuable necklace stolen during the Nazi raids that may have been linked to Guy de Maupassant's classic heartbreak of a story, The Necklace.



When the mother dies suddenly, and her jewellery goes missing, the trio ends up in France, chasing each other, the necklace and some desire to change their lives.

Crosley, who gave up her longtime publishing job to write full-time, says her first love was fiction. She completed her first novel in college but the manuscript never made it very far. It was with her two collections of personal essays, I Was Told There'd Be Cake and How Did You Get This Number where she made her mark as a humorist in the vein of David Rakoff or David Sedaris. Both collections became New York Times bestsellers, with I Was Told There'd Be Cake optioned for an HBO series.

Crosley's 140-character zingers have also made her a favourite online, as have her book trailers, the latest of which stars Amanda Seyfried and her dog. (She had a cameo on Gossip Girl, to give a sense of her place within the New York literary scene.)

The Clasp took five years to complete, a much longer stretch, Crosley says, than her non-fiction work.

She moved around frequently, retreating to friends' homes to write. She used her experience in Los Angeles working on various pilots as research for Nathaniel's character, and relied on a friend's expertise to capture the details of working nine to five for a tech company.

While researching the mechanics of jewellery production, Crosley started her own fake line to make sure she got it right. She even rented out her apartment on Airbnb so she could afford some time at a château in Normandy.

While this detail gives The Clasp believability within a rather absurd plot, it's Crosley's dry but empathetic wit and observational power that makes this book a real gem.

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HUDSON'S BAY

TOPMAN

4 REASONS TO WATCH THE WIZ LIVE!

To transform The Wiz yet again, this time into a live TV extravaganza, is anything but easy. For weeks the star-studded cast (including Elijah Kelley, Ne-Yo, David Alan Grier, Mary J. Blige, Queen Latifah and newcomer Shanice Williams as Dorothy) has mustered at New York's Long Island's Grumman Studios. In free moments, they look ahead to their one-night-only trip to Oz on NBC, Dec. 3, 8 p.m. EST THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

BRIDGING THE RACIAL DIVIDE

Why The Wiz?

"The Wiz is a cultural touchstone in the black community, with an emotional connection we didn't really know about until we were doing it," says Neil Meron, who is producing the show with longtime partner Craig Zadan.

"Bottom line: The Wiz is phenomenal entertainment, and even with the racial divide at its highest point in decades, we want to put that on pause and do something for the family and for the spirit, and have a great time."

MAKING YOUR DREAMS COME TRUE

A timeless message

Elijah Kelley (who plays the Scarecrow): "Understanding the ability to conquer your fears is one of the things that propels you to any success you desire. That's what The Wiz is about."

Singer-actor Ne-Yo (the Tin Man): "Everybody thinks, 'I'm not pretty enough,' 'I'm not thin enough,' 'I'm not this-or-that enough.' But none of that is true. The Wiz teaches you that everything you need to make your dreams come true is already there inside you."

SOMEONE'S GOT ANTS IN HIS LION PANTS

"I'm 'anticipitatious,'" says David Alan Grier. "I'm anticipating the anticipation. But that's GOOD nerves. We'll be ready!"

THIS ISN'T HER FIRST YELLOW BRICK ROAD

In Dorothy's shoes

Shanice Williams, a 19-year-old New Jersey native chosen from hundreds of hopefuls, had already appeared in her middle-school production of The Wiz scoring the part of the Good Witch of the North. "But when there was an open call for the TV production, I went, just for the learning experience," she says. "Then they kept calling me back and calling me back. There was finally a point where I was like, 'Hold on! I might actually get this.' Now I'm having the time of my life!"

HE AIN'T HEAVY, IT'S HIS COSTUME

Men in suits

Actor-comedian David Alan Grier (on his Cowardly Lion getup): "It is SO very hot, sir! I'm a fuzzy stovepipe!"

Ne-Yo (on his Tin Man costume): "It's 30 or 40 extra pounds. And it doesn't breathe!"

Elijah Kelley (on his Scarecrow duds): "The costume isn't heavy, but I have to always stand like this," and he demonstrates an ache-inducing bandy-legged posture. "What I don't have to deal with in my costume, I make up for with muscle contortion."

HOLLYWOOD

Transgender issues get spotlight

The Danish Girl, a film about transgender pioneer Lili Elbe, hits U.S. theatres this week, riding on a wave of growing cultural awareness and media attention on LGBT issues.

The movie, by British director Tom Hooper, who won an Oscar in 2011 for The King's Speech, tells the story of Danish artist Einar Wegener, who underwent one of the first sex change operations of the 20th century and became known as Lili Elbe.

Appearing at the Los Angeles premiere of the movie over the weekend, actor Eddie Redmayne said he was very much ignorant of transgender issues when he first read the script about four years ago.

"I fell into all the cliches of ignorance," he told reporters. "I didn't realize that gender and sexuality weren't related."

Redmayne said he spent months researching his character and LGBT issues until he felt comfortable playing the role.

"It's almost a hundred years since Lili and Gerda's (the artist's wife) story and what Lili had to face in terms of discrimination," Redmayne said.

"There hasn't been much progress except in the last few years, where there has been a sea change."

That change is reflected in a number of award-winning TV series that deal with transgender issues, like Transparent or Orange is The New Black, and the very publicized outing earlier this year of transgender Olympian Caitlyn Jenner.

Eddi Redmayne stars in The Danish Girl. CONTRIBUTED

President Barack Obama's administration has also championed LGBT issues, hiring the first openly transgender staff member at the White House, where The Danish Girl was screened on Monday.

"To think of The Danish Girl going to the White House is something I would never have imagined," said David Ebershoff, author of the novel published in 2000 that inspired the film.

"Just the movie coming out and getting attention expands our knowledge of what it means to be transgender."

And despite all the work still left to do, Ebershoff and others agree there is no going around the fact that a page has been turned for the transgender community.

"It may have been simmering for a while but it has reached a boil now," said Larry Gross, a professor at the University of Southern California's Annenberg School for Communication and Journalism and an expert on LGBT representation in the media.

The Danish Girl opens in Toronto on Dec. 11 and elsewhere in Canada through December and the new year. And Redmayne is seen as a strong contender for an Oscar for his moving performance as Lili.

AFP

JOHANNA SCHNELLER WHAT I'M WATCHING

Code Black has legs

CODE BLACK, SEASON ONE, EPISODE SEVEN (CTV)

The emergency room at Angels Memorial Hospital in L.A. is wall-to-wall as usual, this time with victims from a car crash at a street fair.

The woman on the gurney has lost both her legs at the knee, and is hemorrhaging. An EMT driver hands a plastic bag to an intern.

"It's her legs," the driver says. The intern stares into the bag.

"Drop it," says Dr. Leanne Rorish, his supervisor, and head of the ER. The intern gapes at her. "I mean it, drop it," she repeats. "Her legs are worthless if she bleeds out." The intern drops the bag.

This is the best new network show in ages, for three reasons: Marcia Gay Harden, the latest in a long line of terrific but underused film actresses who find new purpose on TV, who plays Leanne.

The gimmick of the series is catchy — code black is the term for an ER that's flooded with more patients than it can handle — and the excellent close-up camera work makes the war zone mood feel authentic.

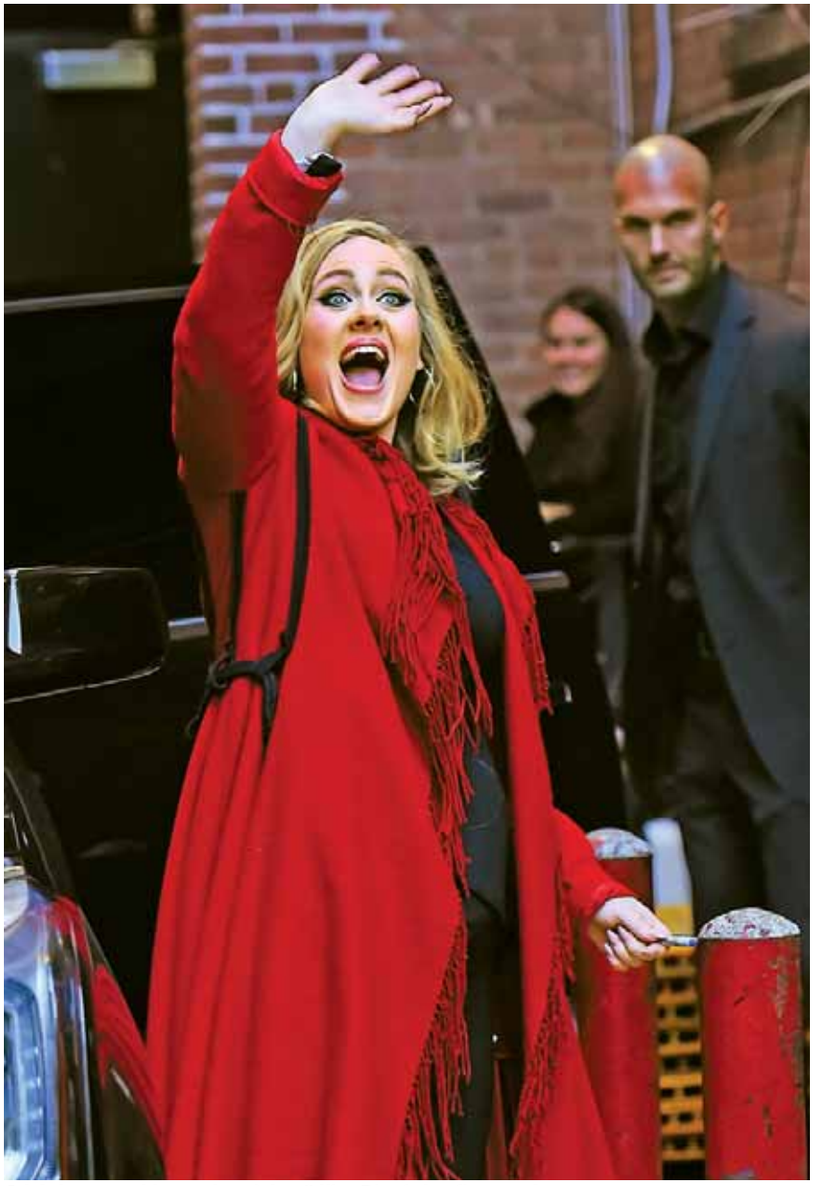
Code Black is the best new network show in ages, according to Johanna Schneller. CONTRIBUTED

But what gives it meaning Harden's kick-ass control. I loved her slinky, scary-smart corporate fixer on The Newsroom: The way she delivered bad news while flirting was a hoot.

Here, she's always doing three things at once, believably — saving patients, teaching students, and keeping a cool eye on everyone's personal dynamics.

She's economical in her words and movements, so a pat on the back or wry comment speaks volumes. She's incapable of a false note.

How Adele beat Céline on the charts



Adele has outsold even the mighty Céline Dion in her first week. JOSIAH KAMAU/GETTY IMAGES

25

You don't give heartache away for free in this business

In the Nov. 21 Saturday Night Live sketch A Thanksgiving Miracle, an awkward Thanksgiving is saved when a family's political squabbles are interrupted by Adele's Hello.

As the soaring ballad plays from a clunky old CD player, the family (including Matthew McConaughey in grandpa garb) leaps from their seats for a wind-machine-assisted sing-along.

This week proved it: Adele is someone we can all agree on. On Wednesday, Nielsen reported that Adele's album 25 sold 260,000 copies in Canada alone in just five days, breaking Céline Dion's 230,000 first-week sales record for 1997's Let's Talk About Love.

South of the border, Adele beat out 'N Sync's single-week sales record — in three days — by selling more than 2.4 million copies.

Nielsen has collected stats on first-week sales only since 1991 in the U.S. and 1995 in Canada — we'll never know where pre-Soundscan blockbusters such as Michael Jackson's Bad would rank.

Supplanting the chest-pounding diva and the heartthrob boy band was a feat considered impossible in a world of music freebies. Heres how she made it happen:

Adele for all

"Adele's music is popular with all demographics," says Anita McOuat, partner at PwC and editor of PwC's Entertainment & Media Outlook 2015-2019. Her diverse fan base means she can afford to overstep streaming. "Many of the older demographic still buy CDs and still pay to download from iTunes or other digital services," says McOuat.

Bye Bye Bye to boy bands?

Though Adele dethroned 'N Sync in the U.S., make no mistake — teenage girls have not abandoned their historic throttle on the music industry. McOuat notes that 'N Sync heir apparent Justin Bieber just charted 17 singles simultaneously on the Billboard Hot 100, breaking a record set by the Beatles.

But people today prefer to listen their ballads as whole albums, while choosing their pop hits à la carte from digital or streaming services.

Off stream

While Bieber may be slam-dunking streaming records, you don't make Adele money by just giving heartache away for free. She famously pulled 25 from streaming, and can you blame her? The Copyright Board of Canada ruled in May 2014 that artists would receive just 10 cents per every 1,000 streams of a song. That's more than 60 hours of music for every dime an artist gets out of the $24 million Canadian streaming market, calculated by PwC.

As hot as Hello

Lead single Hello, accompanied by its moody Xavier Dolan-directed video has been No. 1 on the Billboard Canada Hot 100 chart for four weeks.

"The outpouring of love for Adele was enormous before people even heard (the song)," says Taylor Jukes, Program Director at Toronto's Virgin Radio. "Once they heard it they fell in love." Jukes, who predicts "Hello" will have legs well into 2016, says the public appetite is enormous. "We try to play it almost hourly if we can," she says. "People want to hear it five, six times during their workday."

Lucky 21

Even more persuasive than a killer first single? An instant classic album owned by 1.5 million Canadians. "When you talk about what they are doing right with 25, you have to go back and look at all of the things they did right with 21," says Nielsen's Bakula. "That's where the base for this was built. When we look at the numbers now for 25 and go, 'These are numbers we've never seen before,' let's rewind back to when we were saying the exact same thing about 21."

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

MUSIC

Adele at every age

What if Adele kept releasing a new album corresponding to her age? We imagine the possibilities.

42 **Album:** 42 **Single:** I'll Be Waiting for Soccer Practice

29 **Album:** 29 **Single:** Rolling in the Diapers

69 **Album:** 69 **Single:** Thighfall

37 **Album:** 37 **Single:** Rumour Has It the Music Industry Thinks I'm Getting Old

78 **Album:** 78 **Single:** All I Ask Is That You Speak Up

SCREAM QUEENS

Keke Palmer hopes to live another season

Actress Keke Palmer is a little relieved shooting for Scream Queens is over, so she can focus on her music. But that doesn't mean she's about to give us any spoilers. When asked if her character on the Fox horror/comedy satire, sorority girl Zayday Williams, survives to come back for Season 2, all Palmer will offer is an elusive "I hope!" Metro caught up with Palmer to talk her career, music and horror.

You're into fashion, acting, singing — which one is your main passion?

I love them all. But I just finished Scream Queens and I'm getting ready to do Grease with Fox, but that's a bit more leisurely in the beginning, so now my focus can be on my music. I have the time to really work the way I want to work, since I don't have to be on set. So my main focus is finishing my album and just really getting the right sound.

Who are your biggest music influences?

Brandy is one of the biggest. Of course, Michael Jackson — he's everybody's influence. Aliyah, TLC, Mariah Carey, always been a big fan of hers. For people now who inspire me — Drake. He's very talented and he's no one genre. It doesn't matter the type of genre you listen to, you can hear his music and enjoy it. Same with The Weeknd.

Are you a big horror fan?

Of course, the biggest. I love "Scream Queens" so much because it blends my two favourites, horror and comedy.

Did you know the whole "Scream Queens" story line from the beginning or were you surprised by how it unfolded?

The writers are super-secretive so we know nothing until we receive the script. So suspenseful!

RACHEL VIGODA/METRO IN NEW YORK

MOVIES

New Star Wars movie gets a PG-13 rating for sci-fi action violence

The Motion Picture Association of America says Star Wars: The Force Awakens may not be entirely suitable for young kids.

The organization on Tuesday gave the J.J. Abrams-directed film a PG-13 rating because of sci-fi action violence.

The designation tells parents that some scenes might be inappropriate for those younger than 13 but doesn't restrict attendance. The film comes out Dec. 18.

Star Wars: Episode III — Revenge of the Sith also got a PG-13 rating in 2005.

The five other films in the series were rated PG, but the first three were released before PG-13 was created in 1984.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

GOSSIP BRIEFS

Wu-Tang album sells for millions

The only copy of the infamous Wu-Tang Clan album Once Upon A Time In Shaolin has been sold at an auction to a secret bidder.

Auction house Paddle8 sold the record to an American buyer for an undisclosed sum that was "in the millions," reports The Los Angeles Times. Contractual restrictions mean the record's new owner will not be able to release any of the music commercially for 88 years.

The one-off Wu-Tang album in its artist-designed box. AFP

The 31-track album was completed in 2013 and has been stored in a vault in Marrakech, Morocco, in an engraved silver-and-nickel box designed by the artist Yahya.

The music is shrouded in secrecy but the group has revealed that it features a guest appearance from singer Cher. AFP

Cobain makes Heck of a debut

Kurt Cobain is back in the charts following the release of Montage of Heck: The Home Recordings.

The record starring the late Nirvana frontman has debuted in the No.1 position in the Billboard Soundtracks chart, Billboard reports. It has also entered the Alternative Albums chart at No. 6 and is currently placed No.11 on Top Rock Albums and No.121 on the Billboard 200.

The album was created to accompany a documentary of the rocker's life, Kurt Cobain: Montage of Heck, released this year. It features previously unheard material, including a cover version of The Beatles' song And I Love Her, alongside 12 other tracks. AFP

EXPANDING HER BRAND

Beyoncé steps up fashion game

Beyoncé Knowles is working with British retail tycoon Sir Philip Green on her own clothing brand.

Set to debut next spring, the fashion range will go on sale in 20 countries around the world.

As head of the Arcadia Group, Sir Philip Green owns a host of fashion retailers including Topshop, Dorothy Perkins, Burtons and Miss Selfridge.

The partnership is a concerted effort to take a bigger slice of the global 'streetwear' market — sneakers, athletic, casual clothing and accessories.

News that Beyoncé was considering a move into fashion first surfaced at the end of 2014 when it was revealed she'd held discussions with Green regarding the creation of a new global clothing company — Parkwood Topshop.

However, there had been no statements from either party until Wednesday when Arcadia Group's parent company gave a profit update and issued an official statement confirming that "We are developing our distribution globally for the launch of this exciting new brand in spring 2016." AFP

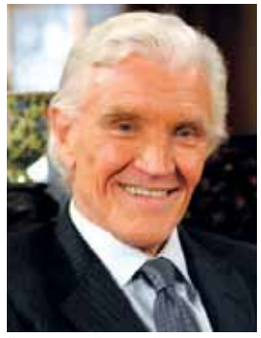
ALL MY CHILDREN

Popular daytime soap star dies

Longtime soap opera actor David Canary, best known for his role as twin brothers on All My Children, has died at age 77.

Canary died of natural causes on Nov. 16 at his home at The Greens at Cannondale in Wilton, Connecticut, Paul Pyrch of the Bouton Funeral Home said Wednesday.

Canary's career spanned more than five decades, with appearances in the films Hombre and Saint Valentine's Day Massacre before earning recurring roles on Peyton Place and Bonanza. In December 1983, he joined the cast of All My Children as twins Adam and Stuart Chandler. Playing the brothers — one evil and the other good-hearted — he acquired fame and five Daytime Emmy Awards.



Soap star David Canary ABC/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

"For more than two decades David Canary defined daytime drama on ABC," the network wrote in a statement Tuesday. "Our hearts go out to his family and we mourn his passing."

Canary shunned the spotlight and preferred to live quietly with his wife and family.

He is survived by his wife, two children and a grandchild. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Cambodian fest has friend in Angie

ANGELINA JOLIE

Big star draws focus to rebirth of nation's film industry

The little-known Cambodia International Film Festival is getting a star-powered boost this year from Angelina Jolie Pitt.

The Hollywood star, who is currently in Cambodia filming her latest movie, will serve as president of the festival's honorary committee, organizers said.

The festival held in the capital, Phnom Penh, runs Dec. 4-10 and is screening 130 films from 34 countries.

"Cambodia's rich history, long culture and talented people mean it has a huge amount to offer the region and the world," Jolie Pitt said in a statement issued Tuesday by the festival. "I'm proud to support the Cambodia International Film Festival and Cambodia as a home for vibrant and innovative filmmaking."

Festival adviser Cedric Eloy, head of the Cambodian Film Commission, said Jolie Pitt's role would provide moral support and help "bring attention to the rebirth of the Cambodian film industry."

Angelina Jolie Pitt, UN High Commissioner for Refugees special envoy and co-founder of the Preventing Sexual Violence Initiative, visits Jan Mai Kaung refugee camp in Myanmar. HKUN LAT/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Cambodia's film industry was devastated by the murderous reign of the Khmer Rouge in the 1970s.

Jolie Pitt is currently filming an adaptation of a Khmer Rouge biography, First They Killed My Father, based on a 2000 memoir by Cambodian author and human rights activist Luong Ung. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

OH WHAT FUN IT IS TO BE DONE.

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metro HOME
Your essential daily news

Seasonal decor: Rose hips from your plants make a colourful centrepiece addition

What they're a$king

Single-family homes are becoming harder to find, especially in the larger markets. Condos fill the need for growing cities, but if you want to start a family, there's nothing like a backyard. A two-bedroom house is a modest size for a growing family — here is a selection of unique homes on the market this week.

Duncan McAllister FOR METRO

ASKING PRICES WERE ACCURATE AT TIME OF PUBLISHING.

$1,449,000

Vancouver

This cute single-family home at 257 E. 38th Ave. is located on the Main Street corridor with a 4,000-sq.-ft. building lot, offering lots of potential for new construction. With a walk score of 75 and a bike score of 100, it's only two blocks to Queen Elizabeth Park and one block to Cartier Park. The location is close to all the Main Street amenities. Listing agents Shawn Anderson and Michael Rampf are with RE/Max Crest Westside, 778-229-6461.

$679,900

Toronto

Here's a semi-detached home in Leslieville with two-car parking and overlooking Greenwood Park. The renovated kitchen has concrete counters and the living space features a fireplace and exposed brick. There's an updated main bathroom, finished basement with recreation room and a three-piece bath. The property features a private drive and garage with a patio and gardens. Listing agent Audrey Azad is with RE/Max Hallmark Realty, 416-699-9292.

$699,900

Halifax

For sale is this unique oceanfront home with commercial opportunities. The contemporary home was custom-built with a massive front deck and towering windows overlooking St. Margaret's Bay. The spacious birch kitchen opens out to the great room with soaring ceilings, a gas fireplace and floor-to-ceiling windows. The downstairs offers almost 2,000 sq. ft. of potential living space. Listing agent is Thomas Bagogloo from the Bagogloo Team, RE/Max nova, 902-830-9006.

$459,900

Calgary

This former bungalow show home includes upgrades such as vaulted ceilings, built-in cabinets and a three-sided fireplace. The main floor offers a good-sized kitchen with an island, pantry and nook. The master bedroom has a full en suite with soaker tub and walk-in closet. It's close to green spaces, shopping, schools and transit. Tim Lind is a sales representative for RE/Max Real Estate Mountain View, 403-333-08374.

$650,000

Ottawa

This home in Lindenlea is zoned commercial with three units in total: Two large residential apartments and one commercial space is included. The building exterior is brick with wood shingles on a 27' x 65' lot. Listing agent Paul Jackson says this is a rare opportunity to own one of New Edinburgh's most iconic properties. Jackson is a sales representative with Royal LePage Performance Realty, 613-238-2801.

$365,000

Edmonton

Here's a half-duplex for sale in Sherwood Park. The main floor has a two-piece washroom. The great room has a built-in TV cabinet above a gas fireplace. The kitchen has dark cabinets with tile backsplash. There's a fully fenced backyard with gas barbecue hookup. Two large master bedrooms each have walk-in closet and four-piece en suite. Sara MacLennan is a sales representative with Liv Real Estate, 780-486-8655.

$699,900

Winnipeg

This architecturally designed and custom-built residence in St. Andrews has a main-floor great room with panoramic river views, a dining room with river and garden views, and birch floors. The eat-in kitchen has a breakfast nook and gas cooking range. There's a main floor powder room and four-piece bathroom and interior access to the three-car garage. Kenneth Clark is a sales representative with Realty Executives Premiere, 204-957-1007.

Deck the tree

Karl Lohnes
For Metro Canada

The Christmas tree is the focal point of your home for the next few weeks. Just as friends cast judgment on your outdated throw pillows or wall colour, the tree will also come under scrutiny — so get it right.

Hunting for this season's best artificial Christmas tree, I found the perfect one from Canadian Tire. Here's a few of their best holiday tree-trimming accessories and some rules to ensure a fabulous centrepiece to your home this season.

Colour trends

Look for the three big trends this year: layers of blue, warm metallic colours, and grey tones. Each colour helps to create a different mood when decorating: Blues give off a retro vibe when teamed with red and white; gold and bronze give off a luxe appeal when mixed with other warm metallic tones like copper; and, grey creates a sophisticated look when silver, black and berry colours are added.

Accessorize the tree with creativity

At the top of the tree, consider something fun like a black top hat and red scarf or a set of decorative resin deer antlers. Under the tree create some luxury for those gifts by laying a faux fur throw, or crumple a set of vintage velvet drapes. Who knows what you might find lying under the tree on Christmas morning?

Best artificial tree: Canvas Oxford Liberty Pre-Lit Pine Christmas Tree, 9 ft., $580, CanadianTire.ca

QUICK TIPS

How many ornaments should I hang on a seven-foot tree?
250 ornaments (35 ornaments per linear foot of height is a general rule).

What should I look for in an artificial tree?
Look for trees that are realistic in colour, have at least two different style of branches, are pre-lit with an adequate amount of warm-white lights, and that the trunk is covered to have a natural bark look.

How many lights should adorn a seven-foot Christmas tree?
700 lights (100 lights per linear foot of height).

Blue
Layering many tones of blue ornaments will give you a visually simple but interesting scheme.
1 Canvas Arctic Teal Wide Glass Finial Ornament, $5
2 Canvas Arctic Teal Peacock Ball Ornament, $4.50

Gold
All tones of gold help to create a luxe look on the tree this year.
3 Canvas Gold Spike Ball Ornament, $5.50
4 Canvas Gold Glass Peanut Ornament (set of 3), $4.50

Grey
Mix with silver and black to create a sophisticated look.
5 NOMA Distressed Glass Lighting (10-set), $17
6 Canvas Silver Flower Patterned Glass Ball Ornament, $5
7 Canvas Silver Metal Penguin Ornament, $3

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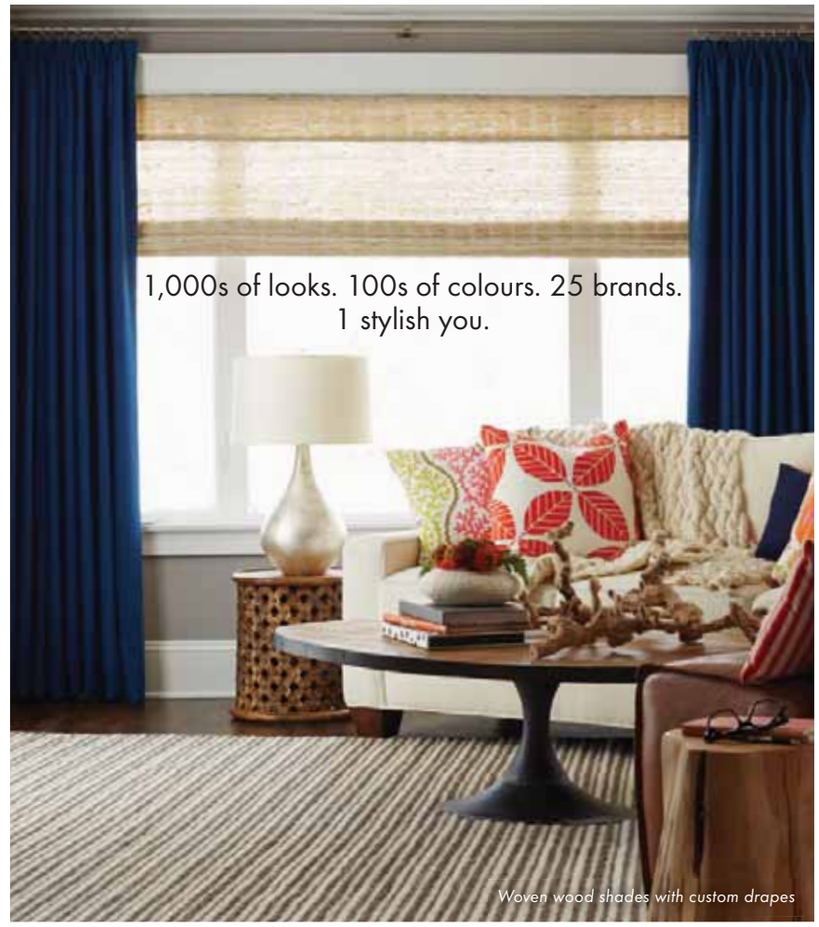

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Don't wait any more for your dream home

Looking for a new home in a secluded yet central spot in Greater Vancouver, but don't want to wait months or years to move in?

South Point Walk is a beautiful collection of homes in leafy South Surrey that is complete and ready to move in, and is now holding a limited-time Fall Move-In Sale. Now buyers can save up to $5,000 on a new home at South Point Walk. Only eight homes remain — starting from the $260,000s, including net GST. Buyers can also own with just five per cent down.

"There's no waiting for your dream home if you buy at South Point Walk," says Vanessa Isler, Director of Sales and Marketing at StreetSide, the developer of South Point Walk. "The value is incredible, the neighbourhood is highly accessible, and the homes are beautiful."

All the accessibility of a great neighbourhood is here, including easy access to shopping and restaurants, parks and pathways, trails and transit.

Set in a beautifully green neighbourhood, the surroundings of South Point Walk have everything you're looking for. At any time of the year, there are many nature walks within a short distance. Or if you're looking to smell sea salt in the air, there's a seaside promenade easily accessible from home. When you're feeling sporty, recreation including golf courses and a rowing club are just around the corner.

The shopping and entertainment destinations are close at hand too, with the South Point Exchange mall and South Point Annex shopping centre just steps from South Point Walk.

Indoors, the homes at the 42-condo development come finely appointed. The one-bedroom, two-bedroom, or two-bedroom-plus-den homes at South Point Walk come standard with quality finishings including gas ranges, stainless steel appliances, Shaker style cabinetry, and thick quartz countertops.

CONTRIBUTED

Your bathroom is your own private oasis, with polished stone counters, chrome fixtures and deep soaker tubs, as well as the added luxuries of in-floor heating and enlarged showers in the en suite.

The South Point Walk sales centre and display suite are open from 12 - 5 p.m. daily except Fridays at 15188 29A Ave., Surrey. Contact by phone at 604 560 3238 or online at southpointwalk.ca.

FALL MOVE-IN SALE

SAVE UP TO $5,000* NOW • 8 HOMES REMAIN • FROM THE 260'S* INCL NET GST

SOUTH POINT WALK

Live in the heart of South Surrey where everything you need is nearby. Shopping and restaurants, parks and pathways, trails and transit – it's all here. Walk to South Point Exchange Mall or the shops at High Street. Choose a spacious 1, 2, or 2 plus den home elegantly appointed with quality finishings including gas ranges, stainless steel appliance packages, Shaker style cabinetry, and thick quartz island countertops. This fall is the perfect time to move in to South Point Walk and save up to $5,000* off.

SALES CENTRE OPEN DAILY

12–5 pm (Except Fridays), 152nd Street & 29A Ave, Surrey

* See sales representative for details. Prices and incentives subject to change without notice.

604.560.3238

SouthPointWalk.ca

2016 Georgie AWARDS FINALIST

STREETSIDE DEVELOPMENTS A QUALICO Company

A new neighbourhood with vision

There are condo developments, and then there are master-planned communities.

The Amazing Brentwood, a social community at Brentwood in Burnaby, is decidedly one of the latter. The 28-acre master-plan will be a community of 11 residential towers atop a 1.1 million sq.ft. shopping, dining and entertainment regional urban centre. Here, every amenity has been carefully considered and tailored to provide an exceptional lifestyle for excellent value.

The latest residential offering at The Amazing Brentwood is now here, with 526 new homes at The Amazing Brentwood THREE. Homes start at $351,300 for a one-bedroom and $442,900 for a two-bedroom.

"The Amazing Brentwood is the best home investment in Canada," says Dan Wilson, executive vice president of Shape Living Corp. "Homebuyers are realizing the incredible value that comes with a $1.3 billion master-plan, complete with on-site SkyTrain, world-class shopping and smart home design."

The value comes through everywhere in the development, not least in its homes. They're more than just beautiful. They're sleek, practical and designed for real life.

Elegance is apparent in the high-quality finishings, which come standard in the one-, two- and three-bedroom residences. They're finished with polished stone countertops, European cabinetry with soft-close hardware and high-end Bosch European appliances, including a refrigerator and dishwasher concealed behind the cabinetry.

Clever space saving techniques can be found throughout the homes, including a convenient kitchen island with breakfast bar and floor-to-ceiling cabinets that provide up to 40 per cent more storage space. The laundry room with side-by-side washer and dryer provide the luxury of space, with maximal comfort and usability.

Amenities provide equal comfort and luxury outside the home, but still within the privacy of the community. Residents will have exclusive access to nearly 18,000 square feet of private outdoor space, including a wind-protected outdoor lounge with outdoor fireplaces and barbecue, a children's play area, gardens and courtyards, as well as a shared, 8,400-square-foot indoor space complete with social lounges, chef's kitchen, music room, and two guest suites.

Stay fit on premises at the state-of-the-art fitness centre with cardio equipment, weights, yoga studio and meditation space.

Looking for a great view? The Amazing Brentwood will have one of the best in the city. The vistas from Brentwood THREE's expansive terraces will go on for days. Perfect to share with your friends and loved ones.

Experience The Amazing Brentwood in person and three new show homes in the 15,000 square feet Presentation Centre, located at 4567 Lougheed Highway (Brentwood Mall). Open daily noon to 5:00 p.m. Register today for access and information at theamazingbrentwood.com or call 604-563-8386.

CONTRIBUTED

THE BEST OF BRENTWOOD

It isn't often that homebuyers have a chance to access the fun, luxury and convenience of an entire shopping centre from the secluded comfort of their lofty condo. At The Amazing Brentwood, a new master-planned community springing up in North Burnaby, the homes high above the city will hover over a buzzing community.

"We're on the cusp of a great transformation in North Burnaby, and The Amazing Brentwood is at the centre of it," says Dan Wilson, executive vice president of Shape Living Corp., the developer of The Amazing Brentwood. The brand new $1.3 billion community is now under development at Willingdon and Lougheed in Burnaby, and is set to become a game changer for the neighbourhood.

Since sales started on the community's first buildings, Brentwood ONE and Brentwood TWO, more than 850 homes have sold in less than a year. Since sales for Brentwood THREE started in early November, the team has seen the same success with 300 of the 526 homes sold in only 2 weeks. A large and desirable selection of homes remains available in Brentwood THREE.

"Brentwood has always been a sought-after, established neighbourhood, but The Amazing Brentwood is elevating it to a whole new level," says Wilson. By the time Brentwood's first phase is complete, in 2018, it will offer 250+ shops and restaurants, creating the region's most desirable destination for shopping, dining and entertainment.

The one-acre central event plaza will provide the public space to host events from musical performances to farmers markets, year-round — all just an elevator ride away for Brentwood THREE residents.

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ACCESSIBILITY

A beautiful home is great. A beautiful home with incredible access to the rest of the city is exceptional. At The Amazing Brentwood, you won't need a car to access almost anywhere in the Lower Mainland.

With the Brentwood SkyTrain Station on-site, The Amazing Brentwood master-planned community will offer unparalleled public transit accessibility. When you live here, a car is optional. Close your front door, take a few steps, and travel to downtown in less than 20 minutes, the Commercial Drive-Broadway corridor in seven minutes, the new Evergreen Line in 10 minutes and the Vancouver International Airport in 48 minutes.

The Lower Mainland's top educational institutions are within easy access. Ride the SkyTrain to Production Way Station to get to Simon Fraser University Burnaby, or on to Surrey Central Station for SFU Surrey. A five-minute bus ride from The Amazing Brentwood will take you to Vancouver's premier technical college, British Columbia Institute of Technology.

At The Amazing Brentwood, the world will be at your fingertips.

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4
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5
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SURREY'S INCREDIBLE POTENTIAL

There's no other place in Vancouver that has the same combination of dynamic growth, promise, livability and affordability that exists right now in downtown Surrey.

Park Avenue WEST, a beautiful collection of new homes in Surrey's downtown, is a sign of just how beautiful and successful the city is becoming. The development is surrounded by incredible conveniences of the neighbourhood, and is located just steps from King George SkyTrain Station, providing easy accessibility to everywhere in the city residents will want to go. Residents will be able to reach Vancouver in less than 40 minutes.

"Our location is ideal for those looking to buy a new home," says Isaac Chan, sales director at Concord Pacific, the developer of Park Avenue WEST. "There's potential in the air here, and everyone who knows Surrey can see it."

Park Avenue WEST is part of the master-planned Park Place Community in central Surrey, which includes the equally stunning Park Avenue EAST tower, and a host of world-class amenities for residents.

The community is set in the heart of the city's most burgeoning area — Surrey's City Centre. Park Avenue WEST is just steps away from Surrey's Central City Mall, with all the conveniences residents will need. The area has become the fastest-growing region in B.C. thanks to more than $7 billion in public and private investments in the area over the past decade.

The vibrant area is home to British Columbia's second largest labour force, and the population skews young, with more than 17 per cent of adults aged 20 to 24 living in the city, as well as a higher proportion of children under 19 years old compared to Greater Vancouver.

Surrey's Central City is also home to the headquarters of many large organizations and businesses, including the RCMP and financial services company PWC.

"There's an energy in Surrey that you don't feel anywhere else in Greater Vancouver," says Chan.

Local architecture is booming, with the modern new Coast Capital Savings building nearby, designed by Musson Cattell Mackey Partnership, and the utterly distinct Bing Thom-designed Surrey Public Library.

Higher learning is within reach at Simon Fraser University's Surrey campus, a short walk from Surrey Central SkyTrain Station.

Whenever residents and their guests are looking for a place to shop and enjoy the culture and vivacity Surrey has to offer, Park Avenue WEST is just a short walk from Park Place Plaza, SFU Surrey Campus and Central City Shopping Centre, which has 130 shops and services. Or meet a friend at the Central City Brew Pub for a locally brewed craft beer.

Hotel-quality homes

Home should have the full comfort and luxury of a hotel — and then some. At Park Avenue WEST, a new condo development by Concord Pacific, hotel-style materials and finishes come standard.

"The quality at Park Avenue is apparent from the moment you set foot in the building," says Isaac Chan, sales director at Concord Pacific, the developer of Park Avenue WEST.

Homes come in one of four colour schemes — Impression, Reflection, Manhattan and Hamptons — so buyers can select the harmonious colour combination that works best for them. Residents will find high-end finishes throughout the home, giving every detail beauty and intention, including wide-plank flooring, carpet and marble tiles, engineered quartz countertops, and marble tile backsplashes.

The homes marry form and function, with useful and attractive under-cabinet LED lighting, sophisticated, soft-close cabinetry and open glass display shelving in the kitchen, and a stackable front-load washer and dryer. The European-styled integrated appliance package is elegant and modern, including a gas cooktop.

Hotel-style finishings continue into the bathroom, which has sleek engineered quartz countertops, an undermount sink with a polished chrome Kohler faucet, and large marble tile flooring and shower surrounds.

The relaxing, resort-like feeling extends outdoors too, with balconies or terraces off each suite, a perfect place for barbecuing and relaxing with a cup of tea or glass of wine.

Until Nov. 30, 2015 buyers can own with just a 10 per cent deposit, and get six per cent two-year rental leaseback.

Park Avenue WEST still offers a good selection of suites under $250,000.

"We're getting a wide range of buyers who love our outstanding value," says Chan. "These are individuals with discerning tastes who are looking for our rare combination of high-end homes at an achievable price."

CONTRIBUTED

Visit the Park Avenue presentation centre to experience luxury living at Park Avenue WEST first-hand. Find it at 9908 King George Blvd., Surrey, open daily from noon to 6 p.m., 604-583-9866, parkavenueliving.ca.

AMENITIES

At Park Avenue WEST, world-class amenities are just an elevator ride away.

Club PA is Park Avenue WEST's exclusive amenities space. Get ready for a resort-style fitness and leisure experience that parallels Vancouver's best high-end hotels. An outdoor swimming pool and private, resort-inspired cabanas will leave you and your guests feeling relaxed and refreshed. Stay fit and have fun at the private tennis court, yoga pavilion, putting green, and fully equipped, state-of-the-art fitness gym. Practice your golf swing in the club's exclusive golf simulator.

The pool house offers even more fun and relaxation to discover, including an entertainment kitchen, hot tub, steam room and sauna. The entertainment lounge and karaoke media room offer multimedia experiences for you and your guests to enjoy. As the sun sets, take it all in on Park Avenue WEST's sky garden.

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CONCORD PACIFIC

The height of luxury in the city

There are rare places still available in Vancouver where you can find a beautiful new home in an established, heritage neighbourhood that showcases all the natural and cultural riches the city has to offer.

The Leveson, a boutique collection of 39 one-, two- and three-bedroom homes coming early 2016 to Granville Street and 62nd Avenue, is perfectly positioned for residents to take advantage of all the benefits Vancouver has to offer, in a uniquely distinguished West Coast setting.

"South Granville is a vibrant, long-established community with deep roots, and we're honoured to be a part of it," says Liang Fung of Coromandel Properties. "You can feel the sense of heritage here."

Hiking, golfing, shopping, art appreciation, and more — appealing activities of every kind are just around the corner from The Leveson.

Spend a fresh morning on the greens or warm up your swing at the driving range at the McCleery Golf Course, just a seven-minute drive from The Leveson. It's one of the many golfing options accessible nearby, including University Golf Club at UBC and Langara golf courses.

Enjoy horseback riding? Southlands Riding Club and other stables in Vancouver's Southlands nearby will take you out of the city and into nature — just a nine-minute drive away.

Enjoy a boutique shopping and dining experience in a beautiful neighbourhood among the shops and restaurants of nearby Kerrisdale and Oakridge. Great for spending a relaxing weekend or evening, the Kerrisdale neighbourhood offers quality goods and remarkable dining experiences — a wonderful place to meet and treat friends and family.

The tree-lined streets and friendly faces of The Leveson's Marpole neighbourhood forge a feeling of community, surrounded by lush green fields and pristine walking paths of Fraser River and Shannon Parks.

Beyond the rich neighbourhood amenities, the parks, beaches and harbours of the Lower Mainland are all within close reach. Go for a swim at Kitsilano pool, experience a nature walk at Pacific Spirit Park and watch the sunset from atop the manicured gardens at Queen Elizabeth Park.

"The Leveson is a great place to live whether you're purchasing your first home, downsizing, or simply looking for a place to escape the hustle and bustle of downtown Vancouver, that has equal accessibility to all the amazing things the city has to offer," Fung says.

Learn more at LevesonLiving.com.

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Exceptional interiors

Imagine a home that reflects an aesthetic that ideally balances contemporary and classic elements. At The Leveson you'll find it, with warm engineered hardwood flooring and rich natural textures, designed by renowned Vancouver interior designer Cristina Oberti.

Living spaces cleverly draw light inside thanks to voluminous windows that carefully frame outdoor vistas.

Kitchens at The Leveson provide a place to exercise your culinary creativity, featuring stunning Caesarstone waterfall countertops and Caesarstone or marble backsplash, premium integrated Bosch stainless steel appliances, including a five-burner gas range, and sleek Pentco wood cabinetry.

Bathrooms are the essence of luxury at The Leveson, each with its own deep soaker bathtub, streamlined dual-flush toilet and modern Kohler fixtures. Opulent ensuites include his-and-hers vanities along with a sleek glass shower enclosure and luxurious rain shower spout.

The Leveson is comfort, embodied.

Setting the standard for distinguished design

The Leveson will have a timeless quality that is ideally suited to their setting in a well-established neighbourhood in the heart of Vancouver.

"The architecture features a contemporary interpretation of traditional forms," says Liang Fung of Coromandel Properties. "It's an aesthetic that's representative of the neighbourhood, and The Leveson is a remarkable example.

With flawless detailing, spacious interiors and expansive outdoor patios, these residences set a new standard for sophisticated design, says Liang Fung of Coromandel Properties.

"At the Leveson, details matter. Every element of your home, from the striking contemporary exteriors to the warm ambiance of the inviting interiors, has been carefully considered to create a seamless refined experience."

Designed by local firm Gateway Architecture, the four-storey development radiates understated modern elegance. The simple, symmetrical façade creates a sense of arrival, defined by architecture with strong lines and warm details, as you and your guests walk in the door. The refined exteriors are enhanced with timeless materials, including rich brickwork and sleek cement board paneling befitting the established yet evolving neighbourhood. Surrounding the development, lively green spaces by landscape architect Durante Kreuk envelop homes with local plants and trees, creating privacy and connection of nature. Families with children won't need to head to the park for a place to play outdoors. The Leveson's private children's play area will provide a safe and secure place for little ones.

CONTRIBUTED

When you're looking for a gathering place for friends and family, the fully equipped entertainment lounge and extensive patio offers a cosy space to celebrate.

The Leveson presentation centre is coming early 2016. For early purchasing opportunities and more information on this boutique collection of luxury Granville residences, register your interest online at LevesonLiving.com or call 604 880 8312.

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LEVESON

GRANVILLE & WEST 62ND

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Looking for more space? Coquitlam is an incredibly green, accessible and family friendly option for first-time home-buyers.

Evergreen by Bosa Properties is a collection of move-in ready high-rise condominium homes in the heart of downtown Coquitlam located nearby the new Evergreen rapid transit line, adjacent to Coquitlam City Hall, shops and services and backed by the more than 50 years of experience that come with the Bosa name.

The new SkyTrain line, scheduled for completion soon in fall 2016, will invigorate the area and likely increase property values, says Madonna McLafferty, sales manager at Evergreen.

A selection of 853-square-foot two-bedrooms are available for $448,900, and are ready to move into.

"This is a chance to get more space without losing the urban amenities of this central location," says McLafferty. "A home at Evergreen is a great investment in your future."

As expected with any home from Bosa Properties, the interiors are outfitted with high quality finishes and materials throughout, including Armony kitchens from Italy with soft-close cabinetry and drawers, polished chrome Kohler faucets and appliances from KitchenAid and Electrolux.

The neighbourhood amenities can't be beat. Over 200 shops and services are a steps away at Coquitlam Centre Mall featuring brands such as Hudson's Bay, Aritzia, H&M, Sephora, The Apple Store and daily conveniences such as T&T Supermarket, Kin's Farm Market and Save-on-Foods.

At Evergreen it's easy to keep fit with the fully-equipped fitness centre with private patio for outdoor yoga in warm weather. Or have fun with friends in the spacious entertainment lounge or out on the landscaped, rooftop terrace with barbecue area and fire pits.

Walk or run the lush parks and trails nearby and golf at the abundant courses in the area. Swim, play tennis, take a class, and much more in the neighbourhood community centres and sports facilities including Evergreen Cultural Centre, Coquitlam River Park, City Centre Aquatics Centre.

The close proximity of public transit will give you incredible freedom. At Evergreen you're just six minutes to Lougheed Town Centre, 15 minutes to Metrotown, and 25 minutes to the centre of downtown Vancouver.

Higher learning is just around the corner too. Evergreen is just two blocks from Douglas College.

Homeowners at Evergreen will have the benefits of the city at their doorstep.

BLACK FRIDAY

What you must know to find the must-have buys

Black Friday has become the unofficial start of the holiday shopping season, with thousands of Canadians taking advantage of online and in-store sales. SHUTTERSTOCK

Early birds get the best deals

SHOPPING TIPS

Online and in-store sales may already be available

Tanya Enberg

Slashed prices on electronics, clothing and sports gear top the lists of many Canadian Black Friday shoppers — and it's becoming easier than ever before to snag the best deals available, say the pros.

"Stay social," advises Satish Kanwar, director of product for the e-commerce site, Shopify, used by more than 175,000 merchants across the globe.

"Your friends love posting about great Black Friday deals just as much as stores do. Lots of online stores also allow users to share their shopping experiences directly from the site, or tweet out must-have items. Shoppers should monitor their newsfeeds and timelines to make sure they're not missing out on any great deals."

Sharon Giraud, a business consultant in Mississauga, Ont., is a savvy Black Friday devotee. Among the goods she will be watching for is software, clothing, tech gadgets and cooking items.

"I check online and in store in advance to see what the prices are," says Giraud, 49, who prefers shopping virtually to avoid in-store crowds.

"You can often jump online at midnight and get the deals before stores even open. If it's something like shoes or clothing, I try it on in advance so I am certain the sizing is right."

Additionally, Giraud makes a habit of asking staff at the stores where she shops about future markdowns, especially as a number of businesses start cutting prices before the arrival of Black Friday.

Striking early is smart move, agrees Kanwar.

"More and more, retailers are offering sales in advance of Black Friday to ramp up excitement for one of the busiest days of the year," he says.

"Be sure to keep an eye out for the inevitable early sales."

Diane J. Brisebois, president and CEO of the Retail Council of Canada, says homegrown merchants are stepping up their online game, and Canadians are taking notice.

"What we heard from the great majority of retailers who were active in promoting Black Friday (last year) was about the growth in online shopping," Brisebois says.

"They were shocked — it was double digits."

Brisebois points out that more merchants are setting up virtual stores, resulting in a highly competitive atmosphere and boosting interest among buyers looking for value from the comfort of their own homes.

Rooted in the U.S., Black Friday is still a relatively new concept in Canada. It first began appearing here in 2008, and the idea is gaining momentum with some consumers.

It is now considered one of Canada's biggest shopping days of the year, with tech items in the highest demand, as well as other pricier fare, such as parkas, footwear, jewelry, skates and ski equipment.

BEFORE HEADING OUT

- Make a list
- When cross-border shopping, calculate exchange rates and shipping costs before ordering
- Understand the currency being used online
- Take advantage of promo codes
- Shop with retailers you know and trust
- Research the return policy. Policies can range from store-only credit to full refunds or a final sale with no refunds

Brisebois says that Black Friday is "becoming the kick off" for holiday shopping, however stresses that it is easy to get swept up in the consumer hype and lose sight of one's budget.

"To some people it's the high, the excitement — it gets crazy, it gets busy," says Brisebois.

"There's a lot of buzz, but always be careful that you're buying what you need and what you're going to enjoy. This is no different than trying to put your list together for the holidays — stick to your list."

Brisebois suggests setting a budget, shopping around, downloading apps to price compare, paying with debit, and only using credit if the card provides real benefits.

Meantime, Kanwar says that loyalty pays off with favourable early-bird discounts and insider news.

"You're probably also on a few stores' email lists already from past purchases — and it's likely they will tell you first about their upcoming discounts or deals," he notes.

"One of the most widely used tactics for online stores is email marketing. Subscribers can gauge which retailers will offer them the most value and best discounts by joining mailing lists well before Black Friday."

45%

According to a survey by Mintel, 45% of Canadians believe buying the appropriate gift, regardless of cost, is important, while 30% value sticking to a holiday budget. The survey also revealed that 55% watch for ads promoting in-store holiday deals, 47% search out online sales ads, 44% use coupons and 40% rely on social media platforms for discount information.

Black Friday is 'here to stay'

HISTORY OF

The shopping extravaganza is now pretty much on par with Boxing Day

Vawn Himmelsbach

Shoppers take advantage of Black Friday sales at Macy's in New York City. GETTY IMAGES

A decade ago the concept of Black Friday didn't exist in Canada. But over the past five years it's picked up steam, becoming a part of the Canadian shopping psyche — almost as much as Boxing Day.

In the U.S., Black Friday follows Thanksgiving Day, which always takes place on a Thursday at the end of November. The tradition dates back to 1924 when Macy's held its first Thanksgiving Day Parade (on Thursday), which kicked off the holiday shopping season (on Friday). The term "Black Friday" was coined in the '60s, referring to retailers moving out of the red and into the black.

Canada, of course, celebrates Thanksgiving in October, so Black Friday doesn't fall on a holiday here. Yet it's still become a popular shopping event.

"The tipping point of when it became an important holiday to retailers is when it became an important holiday for consumers," said Michael LeBlanc, senior vice-president of marketing and digital retail with the Retail Council of Canada.

Over time, more U.S.-based retailers have opened up shop in Canada, lending publicity to the event. "But really what sent the tipping point over was when the dollar was at par," said LeBlanc. So many consumers started shopping on Black Friday — south of the border or on U.S. websites — that Canadian retailers started paying attention.

It was a "defensive-offensive" strategy, he said, adding that cross-border shopping takes about $8 billion out of the Canadian economy each year.

But it was also seen as an opportunity, since it's a time when Canadians have shopping on the brain. "Last year was probably the biggest milestone because retailers had fully adopted it into their promotional calendars," said LeBlanc.

"It's probably within the last five years that it really caught fire on this side of the border," said Kelly Askew, managing director of retail strategy with Accenture. Initially there was a growth spurt, but the numbers have levelled off, with 61 per cent of Canadians indicating they would participate in Black Friday in 2013 and 2014. This year, that number is 60 per cent, according to Accenture's holiday shopping survey.

"Canadian retailers have fully embraced Black Friday and people aren't dependent upon driving across the border to the U.S. or shopping online at U.S. sites," said Askew. "It's interesting to note slightly more Canadians plan to shop on Boxing Day than on Black Friday, but they think they're going to get better deals on Black Friday."

Canadian retailers have jumped on the opportunity to move December shopping into November, he said, giving them more confidence in their numbers as they near year's end — as opposed to relying entirely on Boxing Week.

It's also become a cultural phenomena — Askew has seen Black Friday deals in Europe and as far away as the Philippines.

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Black Friday: Hot tech finds

Marc Saltzman

'Tis the season to buy tech toys, whether it's to gift over the holidays or treat yourself to something you've had your eye on.

Retailers are looking to spur sales on "Black Friday" — which takes place on Nov. 27 — including advertised discounts on many consumer electronics products.

"The popularity of Black Friday shopping continues to grow and each year Canadian retailers are responding with enticing promotions," says Jason Anderson, senior vice president of Marketing at Cadillac Fairview. "Electronics are among the top-selling items within our properties, so the deals are there, and savvy shoppers are taking advantage of the savings."

"On such a busy shopping day, consumers need to be strategic, test, scout and do product research ahead of time so they can identify what they want and where to get it quickly especially when it comes to the hottest tech products that are sure to fly off the shelves," suggests Anderson.

Look no further than below for a glimpse into some of the best Black Friday deals on gadgets, gear, and games.

Toshiba 55-Inch 1080p 60Hz LED TV (55L310U)
Regular price: $699.99
Black Friday price: $499.99
Retailer: Best Buy

If you've been saving up to treat yourself to a big-screen TV, Best Buy is offering a 55-inch Toshiba LED TV (model #55L310U) for $200 off the sticker price – and throwing in one year of Geek Squad 24/7 online support, should you need it. This 1080p HD television enjoys LED backlighting, 60Hz refresh rate and a 1000:1 contrast ratio for deep blacks and more vibrant colours.

Monster iSport Bluetooth Wireless In-Ear Headphones
Regular price: $119.99
Black Friday price: $59.99
Retailer: The Source

Active types will tell you four problems with the earbuds that ship with your smartphone: the audio quality is less than desirable; they're not sweat resistant; the cord gets tangled up; and they fall out of your ears too easily.

Instead, the Monster iSport Bluetooth Wireless In-Ear Headphones resolves all of those issues: they offer superior sound; they're sweat-resistant; they wireless connect with your smartphone; and they're designed to stay in your ears comfortably and securely. An integrated microphone means you can take a call if one comes in.

Canon EOS Rebel T5 Camera w/18-55mm IS III Lens

Regular price: $499.99
Black Friday Price: $329.99
Retailer: eBay (eBay.ca/BlackFriday)

Don't take lousy photos with your smartphone when you can capture life's memories in much better quality. eBay has a Black Friday sale on the Canon Rebel T5 for up to 58 per cent off. Ideal for amateurs and hobbyists, this digital Single Lens Reflex (dSLR) camera includes an EF-S 18-55 millimeter lens for you to capture dazzling photos and shoot HD movies right out of the box.

iRobot Roomba Vacuum Cleaning Robot (780)
Regular price: $699.99
Black Friday price: $449.99
Retailer: Best Buy

Who wouldn't want their home vacuumed by a robot? Especially if you can just "set it and forget it" — to borrow the quote from infomercial guru Ron Popeil. On sale for $250 off the usual price at Best Buy, the iRobot Roomba 780 can move about your floors to suck up 98 per cent of dirt, crumbs and pet hair off carpet, hardwood, tile or laminate.

Fitbit Charge HR Fitness Tracker
Regular price: $179.99
Black Friday price: $149.99
Retailer: Multiple stores

If your New Years' Resolution is to get rid of that spare tire once and for all, the Fitbit Charge HR Fitness Tracker might just be the motivator you need — and it's available for $30 off at multiple retailers on Black Friday (an exclusive blue model is on sale at Best Buy only from Nov. 27 through 30). This wrist-mounted bracelet lets you set a daily goal — such as a certain number of steps taken, distance traveled or calories burned — and the lightweight and water-resistant wristband will keep track of your daily progress. As the name suggests, the Fitbit Charge HR can also read your heart rate.

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metro SPORTS

Seattle Seahawks running back Marshawn Lynch will miss 3-4 weeks after undergoing surgery to repair an injury related to a sports hernia

Vrbata double tames Wild

NHL

Forward helps with scoring issue, Hansen also chips in

Radim Vrbata had just four goals this season for Vancouver before Wednesday. By his own admission, most weren't pretty.

That changed against the Minnesota Wild. Vrbata scored twice, Jannik Hansen once and the Canucks held off the Wild 3-2. Daniel Sedin had two assists, Ryan Miller stopped 31 shots and Vancouver allowed fewer than three goals for the first time in 11 games, winning for just the third time in that span.

"I'm glad those goals help us win the game," Vrbata said. "It's a good start to the road trip." Vancouver, which went 1-4-2 on a seven-game trip earlier this month, will play in Dallas, Anaheim and Los Angeles this time before returning home.

Thomas Vanek and Charlie Coyle scored and Minnesota lost for just the second time in 10 home games. "Tonight was one of those nights, because we have been good at home, we just expected a win, but we didn't put in the work," Vanek said.

The Canucks have been looking for scoring lately from someone other than Hansen and the Sedin twins. Their line had 13 of Vancouver's 21 goals in the team's previous seven games. Vrbata might be that guy. He's now scored three goals in two games after a nine-game drought and has six goals this season after recording 31 tallies last season.

"It was frustrating," he said. "I don't know if one game will change it, but hopefully this is the start of something good now."

Vrbata got a fortunate bounce to snap a 1-1 tie midway through the second period. On the power play, Henrik Sedin's cross-ice pass was picked off by Minnesota's Mikael Granlund in front, but the puck went right to Vrbata and he quickly swatted it past Devan Dubnyk for a 2-1 lead. The Canucks have a power-play goal in seven straight games.

Hansen scored on a breakaway early in the third, taking a long outlet pass from Daniel Sedin and beating Dubnyk high on the stick side.

"We kind of gave it to them. We weren't even close to playing our game, losing battles, no sense of urgency, all that stuff," said Coyle, who scored on a redirect with 1:20 to play.

Yet, the Wild still nearly earned a point. Minnesota had a 6-on-4 advantage for the final 32.4 seconds, and buzzed around the Vancouver net. A tip by the Wild's Jason Pominville went off the crossbar with less than 15 seconds left.

Vancouver's penalty kill has struggled throughout most of November, allowing opponents to score on more than 30 per cent of their opportunities. Those numbers didn't improve in the first period when the Wild scored 27 seconds into a man advantage.

The Canucks finished 1 for 3 on the penalty kill and have allowed 12 power-play goals in 39 chances over the past 11 games.

Vrbata tied the game with 27.9 seconds left in the opening period, taking a pass from Jared McCann in the slot and beating Dubnyk with a wrist shot on the blocker side.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Wild defenseman Matt Dumba, right, and Canucks center Bo Horvat battle for the puck during the second period in St. Paul, Minnesota on Wednesday. ANN HEISENFELT/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WEDNESDAY in St. Paul

3	2
CANUCKS	WILD

> **"We kind of gave it to them. We weren't even close to playing our game, losing battles, no sense of urgency, all that stuff."**
>
> Wild's Charlie Coyle

NHL

Price injured as hot Canadiens rout Rangers

Montreal Canadiens goaltender Carey Price exited after the second period of a game against the New York Rangers on Wednesday. There was no announcement made in the press box as to why the league's No. 1 goaltender left the game. He was replaced by Mike Condon. Price stopped 22 shots in the first 40 minutes and the Canadiens led 2-1 at the break. They went on to win 5-1. Devante Smith-Pelley had two goals for the Canadiens. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Carey Price GETTY IMAGES

Oilers blown away by Hurricanes' team effort

Elias Lindholm scored the go-ahead goal midway through the second period, Cam Ward made 30 saves and the Carolina Hurricanes beat the Edmonton Oilers 4-1 on Wednesday night.

Jordan Staal and Jeff Skinner also scored for Carolina. Andrej Nestrasil, who had a goal and an assist, scored an empty-netter with 51 seconds left as Justin Faulk picked up his second assist of the night.

Benoit Pouliot scored for the Oilers, the 100th goal of his career, and Anders Nilsson stopped 23 shots. Carolina improved to 2-2-4 in its last eight games.

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Sant Baljit Singh

Victoria fighter takes aim at Holm

UFC

First, though, comes bout vs. Germaine de Randamie

Cam Tucker
Metro | Vancouver

Ronda Rousey appeared invincible.

So when Holly Holm, a good friend and teammate of Victoria, B.C., UFC fighter Sarah Kaufman, sent shockwaves through the mixed-martial arts world with a knockout victory over Rousey less than two weeks ago, the ripple effect was like a window of opportunity for those in the women's bantamweight division had suddenly been kicked opened.

Rousey could be defeated.

She was, at least for one night on Nov. 14, not the indomitable, unstoppable force that had taken UFC by violent storm.

"I was super nervous because I knew Holly could do it," Kaufman told Metro.

"But also … Ronda is an incredible athlete and an incredible fighter.

"I was for sure nervous Ronda would come in and do what Ronda does. But as … the fight went on and on, that confidence that I knew I should have in Holly kept growing.

"At the end of that first round, I was like, 'She's winning this fight.'"

Kaufman, the No. 5-ranked fighter in the women's bantamweight division, is now preparing for her own upcoming fight against Germaine de Randamie on Dec. 19.

> **At the end of the first round, I was, like, "She's winning this fight."**
> Sarah Kaufman

She said she has never faced de Randamie before, but is eager to bounce back from a loss by second-round submission to Alexis Davis in April.

Next month's bout could potentially move Kaufman closer to her ultimate goal of a future title fight.

But the UFC decides the challenger for upcoming title fights.

Kaufman remains realistic about where she stands in the division, and the fighters ahead of her in line for such an opportunity.

Kaufman has been in Victoria for the full training camp. She seemed thrilled with the direction of the camp so far, lamenting that it hasn't always come together like this in the past.

"I'm feeling it this time and that's an exciting thing," she said.

Sarah Kaufman celebrates her victory over Leslie Smith in April 2014 at the UFC Fight Night in Quebec City. JACQUES BOISSINOT/THE CANADIAN PRESS FILE

Coaches keep players' focus on the grand prize

103RD GREY CUP

Redblacks, Eskimos on final approach for title match

They're different personalities, but Rick Campbell and Chris Jones are taking similar approaches to preparing their teams for the Grey Cup game.

The two will make their Grey Cup head coaching debuts Sunday when the Ottawa Redblacks and Edmonton Eskimos meet in Winnipeg.

On Wednesday at the annual Grey Cup coaches news conference, Campbell and Jones said they've told their players to enjoy this week but not lose sight of why they're here.

"If you win the Grey Cup, you're a Grey Cup champion forever and you'll remember it forever so that's where you want the focus to be," said Campbell, in his second season at Ottawa's head coach. "We're not going to discourage our guys from interacting with fans and enjoying the process but it's got to be about football."

Jones's message was much more direct. "You assume when you're young that a lot of things are going to happen over and over and over," the Tennessee native said with a noticeable southern drawl. "There's no guarantee that you'll ever be back.

"We flew in on a plane and that plane's going out so if you act the wrong way (you'll be on that flight out of Winnipeg)."

It's no accident Edmonton and Ottawa are in the CFL title game. Both teams finished atop their respective divisions under their second-year head coaches.

After winning just two games in its inaugural season, the Redblacks topped the East Division with a 12-6 season and put an Ottawa-based team into the Grey Cup for the first time since 1981 with a thrilling 35-28 conference final win over the Hamilton Tiger-Cats on Sunday. Edmonton finished tied with Calgary for the CFL's best record at 14-4 but got first by winning the season series with the Stampeders, then dispatched the defending league champion 45-31 in the West conference finale.

Appropriately, Campbell and Jones are finalists for the CFL's coach of the year honour.

Campbell and Jones will also field very similar teams Sunday: strong offences anchored by veteran quarterbacks and rugged, pressure defences. Ottawa quarterback Henry Burris, 40, is a finalist for the CFL's outstanding player award after passing for a league-high 5,703 yards while Edmonton is a stellar 9-0 since starter Mike Reilly returned under centre. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Henry Burris and the Redblacks take to Investors Group Field on Wednesday afternoon for practice ahead of the Grey Cup game Sunday. JOHN WOODS/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Rick Campbell and Chris Jones
THE CANADIAN PRESS

Big-game vets

Campbell and Jones are in their first Grey Cup game as head coaches, but both have been here before as assistants. Campbell is making his fourth appearance while Jones is in his sixth CFL championship contest. Campbell has won twice, Jones three times.

SEX

Campbell just fine with his players scoring off the field

Rick Campbell isn't about to mess with success.

The Ottawa head coach said if scoring off the football field helped his team get to the Grey Cup, he's fine with his players getting lucky this week as the Redblacks prepare to face the Edmonton Eskimos on Sunday in the CFL title game.

Campbell, in his first CFL championship contest as a head coach, offered a brilliant answer when asked the traditional question about pre-game sex at the annual Grey Cup coaches news conference Wednesday.

"It's my job to put guys in the best position to have success, whether that's on or off the field," Campbell said with a straight face. "So I guess I'm going to give advice more than a policy.

"This would probably apply to most of our players and coaches and it mirrors our football team is that the odds aren't good and no one gave you much of a chance, but if you pay attention to detail and you execute and you do it with zest and enthusiasm, anything can happen."

Campbell's deft answer left Edmonton head coach Chris Jones almost speechless.

"How do you top that?" he asked.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

THE CUP ARRIVES IN WINNIPEG Brayden Anderson poses with the Grey Cup Wednesday outside of Upper Fort Garry in Winnipeg. The Cup travelled in true Prairie style on the back of a Red River Cart to the steps of the Manitoba Legislature to kick off the Grey Cup Festival. DONNA MAXWELL/FOR METRO

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RECIPE Zesty Chicken, Red Beans and Rice

PHOTO: MAYA VISNYEI

Ceri Marsh & Laura Keogh
For Metro Canada

This hearty, crowd-pleaser is so perfect for a cold, fall night you may not mind so much that winter is coming. Well, maybe that's a stretch, but it's really delicious.

Ready in
Prep time: 60 minutes
Serves 4

Ingredients
- 1/4 cup flour
- 1 1/2 Tbsp chili powder
- 1/4 tsp salt
- 1/4 tsp pepper
- 6 chicken thighs
- 1 Tbsp olive oil
- 2 cloves garlic, minced
- 1 x 15 oz can of kidney beans
- 1 x 19 oz can of tomatoes
- 1 cup frozen or fresh corn
- 3/4 cup chicken stock
- 1 cup brown rice
- Small handful of chopped cilantro and quartered limes for garnish

Directions
1. Preheat the oven to 350 F.
2. On a plate, toss together the flour, chili and salt and pepper. Dredge the chicken through the mixture until well-coated.
3. In a large Dutch oven or oven proof pot, heat up the olive oil over medium high heat. Brown the chicken on both sides. Place the browned chicken on a clean plate and put aside. Drain excess fat from the pot.
4. Turn the heat down to medium and add the garlic, allow it to soften and become fragrant. Add your beans, tomatoes, stock, corn and rice. Stir. Break up the tomatoes with the back of a wooden spoon. Raise the heat again so that your mixture comes to a boil.
5. Place the chicken pieces on top of your tomato-y mixture, place a lid on top and place in the oven for 45 to 50 minutes. Remove from the oven and serve with a sprinkling of cilantro and lime.

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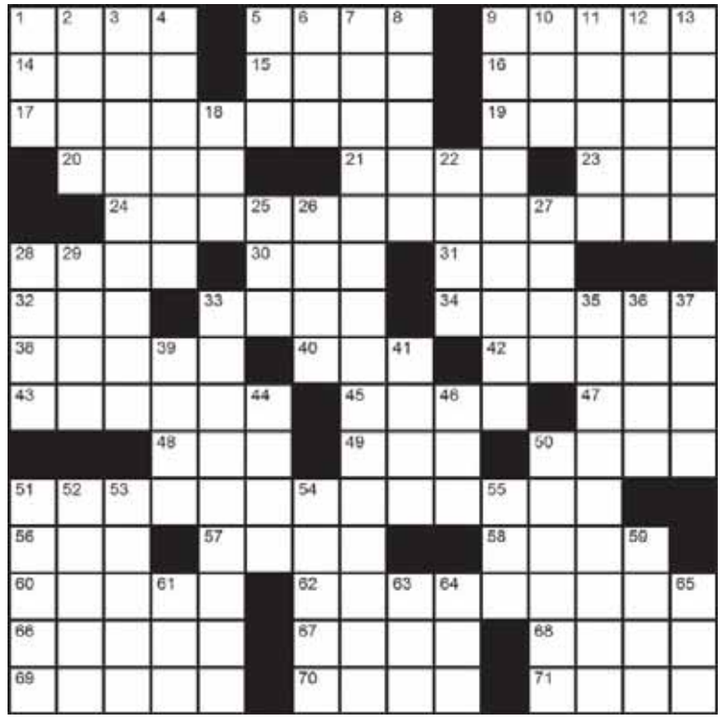
CROSSWORD Canada Across and Down

BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN



ACROSS
1. Noun modifiers [abbr.]
5. Aristocrat of India
9. Lazy __ (Kitchen cupboard upgrade)
14. Throw out
15. __-steven
16. "The Devil Wears __" (2006)
17. Staunch
19. Like a lotus position
20. "How silly __ __." (My bad)
21. Fertilizer component
23. Irish airline, with Lingus
24. Colour choice for a retro-style fridge: 3 wds.
28. Mr. Onassis, et al.
30. Tic-Tac-Toe win
31. Poet's 'atop'
32. Trend
33. __ 'n' Turf
34. Escargots: English
38. Commander played by Lorne Greene on "Battlestar Galactica"
40. U.S. airer of "The Walking Dead"
42. Faultfinder
43. Canadian bathroom tissue brand with the white kittens
45. Comply
47. "Law & Order: ___"
48. Cleaning cloth
49. Vegas locale, briefly
50. Coffee table film
51. Specialty of Canadian tour operator Transat A.T.: 2 wds.
56. "Am I __ brother's keeper?"
57. Smudge
58. Mr. Thicke
60. Celebrity chef Mr. DiSpirito
62. Relaxingly reflects
66. Robin Hood's need
67. Spring months
68. Eternities practically
69. "You Shook __ __ Night Long" by AC/DC
70. Primordial matter of outer space
71. Maple __

DOWN
1. Sit-ups targets
2. ___ death (Overuse)
3. Sgt. played by Dan Akyroyd in 1987's "Dragnet", a comedic take on the classic same-named crime franchise: 2 wds.
4. John of FOX comedy "Grandfathered"
5. NHL official
6. Director Ms. DuVernay
7. Bible-inspired 1989 movie by Canadian director Denys Arcand: 3 wds.
8. Cavern
9. Canada's CSIS or Britain's MI6, for example: 2 wds.
10. Prefix meaning 'Tail'
11. TV actress Katey
12. "Have a lovely voyage!"
13. Mother-of-pearl
18. Ms. Winger, to pals
22. Some might be inflated
25. Promissory note
26. A Doll's House wife
27. Donkey's call
28. Outlying
29. Swiss watch manufacturer
33. Item to put lettuce, cucumbers, dressing, etc. in: 2 wds.
35. One installing fibreglass
36. Ms. Tyler's
37. Rabbit-style tail
39. Great Big Sea's "__-Mac"
41. "Ten-four." sayer
44. Equal: French
46. Ms. Longoria
50. Canadian professional golfer, Graham __
51. Archie Comics character Mr. Lodge
52. Irish rebel Rory
53. Health club outfit material
54. Scrumptious
55. Tub
59. Reality star Ms. Leakes
61. Mil. officer
63. Tie-__
64. 'Ideal' suffix
65. NNW's opposite

IT'S ALL IN THE STARS by Sally Brompton

Aries March 21 - April 20
Demand the best and you will get it. With the Sun moving through one of the most dynamic areas of your chart you only have to snap your fingers for others to come running.

Taurus April 21 - May 21
The pressure you're under may be intense but it's nothing you haven't experienced before and nothing you can't handle. In fact, you will make such a success of it that even your rivals will shower you with praise.

Gemini May 22 - June 21
There are a lot of changes in your world at the moment and some of them are a bit worrying. But no matter how great the upheavals may get you have nothing to fear.

Cancer June 22 - July 23
There is no limit to what you can do. Where work and money are concerned now is the time to push yourself. The effort will pay off.

Leo July 24 - Aug. 23
Romantically and creatively the sky is the limit. The Sun in Sagittarius endows you with massive self-confidence, to the extent that you believe that all things are possible — and your belief will make it a fact.

Virgo Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
Try not to let your emotions get the better of you, because once they start to unravel it's unlikely you will be able to stop them getting entirely out of hand. Whatever the problem is it's not worth getting upset about.

Libra Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
You will want to be on the move today. Realize that you will achieve more if you get out and about and meet as many new people as possible.

Scorpio Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
Know what you want and you know where to find it. If you do then there is a very good chance that you can make it your own. Above all Scorpio, don't listen to those who urge caution.

Sagittarius Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
The Sun in your sign means there is no holding you back. The only danger is that you could take on too many things and not be able to give your best to what is most important.

Capricorn Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
You are under no illusions about what needs to be done. You are smart enough to realize there are no shortcuts. What you're working on demands your full and undivided attention and your very best efforts.

Aquarius Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
You will do something today that turns heads and gets tongues wagging — and you will love every moment of it. But don't neglect those who have stood by during the bad times. Give them some attention too.

Pisces Feb. 20 - March 20
You can take great strides on the work front. Very Important People will be on your side and very soon you could be a VIP yourself.

CONCEPTIS SUDOKU by Dave Green

Every row, column and box contains 1-9

6				1				5
	4		2		7		6	
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		4				1		
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4				5				1

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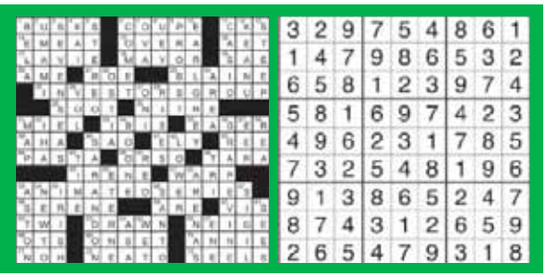

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6	5	8	1	2	3	9	7	4
5	8	1	6	9	7	4	2	3
4	9	6	2	3	1	7	8	5
7	3	2	5	4	8	1	9	6
9	1	3	8	6	5	2	4	7
8	7	4	3	1	2	6	5	9
2	6	5	4	7	9	3	1	8

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